

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGIEERS

Military might: a tank among normal civilian vehicles in the streets of Algiers after Saturday night's resignation of President Chadli

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

would truly be a closing down sale. Of all the things British Rail needs, being parcelled

BY DAVID YOUNG

Fog shrouded much of central Scotland last night, affecting the M8 between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Strathclyde police said that Glas-

Continued on page 20, col 1

Forecast page 20

After all, wouldn't you like an Equitable pension?

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The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to your

BY JOANNA PITTMAN IN TOKYO
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

But journalists have seen the complete tape, and *The Washington Post* gave a full description of it on Saturday. The longer version records the events immediately before the television im-

NHK TV, which had two cameras set up in the banquet hall that evening, had permission to film only the toasts and the speeches. When the cameramen were ordered to leave the room after the toasts, one defied the ban and left his

monitor and that nobody pressed the button to record the tape until 30 seconds into the event. Some foreign television producers in Tokyo believe that either NHK is being disingenuous, or that one of its foreign television partners, which were also receiving the images on their own monitors, must have recorded the film.

Bush tackles jobs, page 10

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BY TONY DAW

They include one former employee who said that at the

Mr Basham then introduced the subject of Mike Batt, a BA executive who had been wooed by Virgin but had

Burnside: irritated by Times correspondent

Tony Cocklin, BA's public affairs manager, said of Mr. Basham: "He works for us when we need him, mainly in the City and financial side. But he is out there in the market place all the time and people will talk to him." He said that BA welcomed competition.

Tails of the unexpected: the two airlines locked in an acrimonious dispute

Telling tales about competitors is not confined to airlines. Tony Dawe reports on the widespread use of such tactics

In 1989, according to former senior executives of Air Europe, BA was responsible for misleading stories that the independent airline chaired by Harry Goodman was unable to pay its bills and was about to make staff redundant when it was, in fact, at the height of its success. In a memorandum to Richard Branson, the Air Europe executives drew parallels between the tactics used against them and several notorious stories about Air Europe. Rumors were traced to BA. The airline industry has always been gossipy, in the 1950s with gossip. In the 1990s, with gossip it was good-natured, with airline staff attributing absurd nicknames

It reached its height during Lord Hanson's rumoured attempt to take over ICI last year. When Lord Hanson's tax avoidance schemes and his company's investment in the racehorses of his colleague, Lord White of Hull, featured in national newspapers, he wrote to Sir Tim Bell, his chief public relations adviser, saying that he should have "dispelled all this garbage in advance" and done a better job of "spreading the Hanson gospel in the media". Sir Tim was working for Lord Hanson with Roddy Dewe and Brian Basham, two other

Many are employed directly by businesses, local and national government and organisations such as charities, while others work for highly paid public relations consultancies or just on their own. The Institute of Public Relations claims a membership of 4,000 and operates a code of conduct.

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND SHEILA GINN

Neil Kinnock accused Mr Lamont last night of preparing a "save our skins" budget for the Tories instead of a "save our country" budget. At a rally in York the Labour leader said that a 1p cut in income tax would take away £1.9 billion from health and other vital services and do nothing to start the economic recovery.

Bareev seals chess victory

In Saturday's 13th round, Bareev faced his closest rival, Simen Agdestein, the Norwegian grandmaster. Bareev gave him no chances and took an unbeatable 1½ point lead. Shirov beat Adams. Suetin drew with Speelman. Hodgson lost to Chandler.

£2,000 golf ball

A golf ball with an estimated value of £2,000 to £4,000 comes under the hammer later this week. The previously unrecorded type of ball, made around 1850 from gutta-percha, an early form of rubber, was discovered amongst an Edinburgh collection. It is to be sold at the bi-annual golf sale held at Phillips in Chester.

Hunt decision

Geoff Brookes, a member of the Quorn hunt committee for 23 years, has resigned in protest at the dismissal of Captain Fred Barker, the former hunt master. The decision, he said, was "disloyal" and a sad loss to the Quorn. Rad Thomas, the former spokesman of the hunt, which is facing allegations of cruelty to foxes, said yesterday that he was reviewing his position.

Boy returned

Police were questioning a man and a woman last night after a three-year-old boy who went missing from his home at Denham, Buckinghamshire, early yesterday morning was found at a nearby flat. John Smith, who let himself out of his house while his mother, Lynne Smith, was sleeping, was returned home by police. He had been missing for more than eight hours.

In this Friday's colour UPDATE, The TES looks at government efforts to raise the status of vocational education and training

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
75p

CRUFTS dog show ended yesterday after attracting 55,000 visitors to the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre for the four days of showing. Two breeds of dog were seen at the show for the first time: Polish Lowland Sheepdogs and the Japanese Shiba Inu.

[illegible]

Ayrshire.
Long-haired dachshund: Ashridge
Tropical Rain (G Dunn, Newark, Notts)
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board: Paron Christmas Ivy (D Startup,
Baldock, Herts) Overboard: Borwin
Admiral (R Taylor, Crewkerne). Somer-
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Mindar
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Second IRA bomb factory found by police in Belfast

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

POLICE in Belfast made a second major arms find in as many days when they uncovered an IRA bomb factory yesterday in a house in the west of the city. Two men were being questioned last night.

Acting on a tip from an informer inside the IRA or on intelligence information gathered by the security forces, police searched a house at Islandstown Street off the Falls Road, and uncovered about 1,500lb of home-made explosive and other equipment.

The explosive, a mixture of commercial fertilizer and additives, was discovered in the

kitchen of the small terraced house inside more than 12 plastic sacks. Police also found grinders used to refine the ingredients to the required consistency for detonation.

Police believe the discovery has foiled a planned attack on Belfast city centre early next week. Chief Inspector Billy Lowry said: "Here we have the complete components for a 1,500lb bomb, or four or five smaller bombs which would still have wrought death and destruction in the centre of Belfast. They certainly were in the process of making this up and it would have been early next week

before we saw it come on the scene."

Mr Lowry promised that the operations to "thwart the IRA" would continue. "It's nice to have some success." He refused to say how the find had been made, putting it down to good police work.

The latest discovery follows the finding on Saturday of 80 IRA bombs, including 50 blast incendiary devices, and guns and ammunition at a house in another part of West Belfast. This led to two arrests.

The two finds are a setback for the IRA which caused serious damage in the centre of the city early last week with two large van bombs. Since then there have been extra police and army patrols, and checkpoints have been set up to try to prevent further attacks.

However, the provisionals are known to have almost unlimited stocks of weapons and explosives; in time they will replenish their arsenals in Belfast from stores in the border areas and inside the Irish Republic.

The search and seizure operations to find an unknown number of IRA weapons dumps in Belfast will continue indefinitely. They were stepped up following a crisis summit meeting between Sir Hugh Annesley, chief constable of the RUC, Lieutenant General Sir John Wilesey, and their senior officers last Wednesday night. They met amid growing public concern about their apparent inability to halt the IRA bombing campaign in Belfast. On Sunday and Monday last week two huge bombs caused an estimated £7 million damage.

Other measures being taken by the security forces involve increased around the clock patrolling and a road-block stranglehold on all routes into the city centre. Hundreds of part-time soldiers in the Ulster Defence Regiment remain on full-time duty in Belfast after a call-out three days ago and extra police have been redeployed into the city from other areas.

The RUC announced last night that a man is due to appear in Belfast magistrates court today charged in connection with the 500lb IRA van bomb which wrecked a large area around Belfast's high street last Monday. Three other men have already appeared in court charged with same offence.

Unionists list post-poll terms

BY OUR IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SOURCES in the Ulster Unionist party yesterday made clear that it would expect an unequivocal commitment to renegotiate the Anglo-Irish agreement by either Labour or the Conservatives, in return for its support in a hung parliament.

The sources indicated that the party would seek the replacement of the 1985 agreement with a wider British Isles agreement, in which Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom would be acknowledged and secure.

Other items on the party's list, which suggest it will be playing a tough game in any post-election bargaining, would be the introduction of legislation for Northern Ireland by parliamentary bill instead of orders in council, a commitment to establish a Northern Ireland regional council along the lines of the Strathclyde model and the setting up of a Northern Ireland select committee at Westminster.

While James Moynihan, the party leader, denied reports that informal meetings had been arranged for this week with senior Conservatives to discuss the price of his support, other members of the party confirm that informal or social contacts with members of the government were continuing and the question of a hung parliament was being discussed.

The so-called Conservative charm offensive with the Unionist party, which has



Brooke: his remarks sounded integrationist nine MPs, began at the last party conference in the autumn when Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, made unexpectedly integrationist sounding remarks.

More recently Jonathan Caine, formerly head of the Northern Ireland section in the Conservative research department and a committed integrationist, has begun work as Mr Brooke's special adviser. Mr Caine is now spending his time shuttling between Belfast and London and, according to one unionist, "his remit is supposed to be to rebuild relationships with the unionists because the Tories feel they need us".

Last night there were signs that uncertainty caused by the election may kill off attempts by Mr Brooke to restart inter-party talks in the next few weeks.



Space invaders: part of the collection of model soldiers which has outgrown its owner's home and must now march to the auctioneer's

Army of toy soldiers expected to fetch £70,000

BY JOHN SHAW

AN army of 6,200 toy soldiers, complete with cavalry, ceremonial elephants and maharajahs, goes on parade at Phillips auctioneers in London on January 21, when it is expected to fetch up to £70,000. One of three model displays, it is a replica

of a spectacular military pageant mounted in Delhi in 1911, when King George V received Indian princes.

The others depict the square, the British fighting formation employed on such fields as Waterloo, and, by way of contrast, Prince Charles's wedding at St Paul's Cathedral in

1981. Like many similar collections, it began on the nursery floor. George Palmer, aged 72, a retired Lloyd's underwriter who now lives on the Isle of Wight, said: "When I was a small boy long before the war my parents bought me some lead soldiers. When I grew up they kindly preserved the collection. I went abroad as a proper

soldier then, and they put them in store. When my sons were the right age I got them out and we started collecting as a family, so it goes back a long way. It's a wrench to part with it all, but it's a question of space as much as anything else," said Mr Palmer, who spent almost 20 years putting the collection together.

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|----------------|---|--|
| £40,000 | £316.93 | £322.53 |
| £60,000 | £508.36 | £517.59 |
| £80,000 | £699.79 | £712.56 |
| £100,000 | £891.22 | £907.58 |

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Man sought over killing of lawyer

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

THE parents of Margery Hopegood, the English lawyer who was found stabbed to death in a public lavatory in northern New Zealand, received personal assurances from the Wellington government yesterday that everything would be done to find the killer.

The family attended a special service for Miss Hopegood, their adopted daughter, at their parish church in Earls Colne, Essex, yesterday. Her body was discovered on Friday, face down in a lavatory cubicle in Hamilton. She had been stabbed in the face and shoulders.

A man was reported to have been seen talking to her shortly before her death, and later washing himself in the river. Police said that nothing had been stolen from her handbag, found near the body, and there were no signs of sexual assault.

Nazi papers were gift to historian

BY NICHOLAS WATT

DAVID Irving, the historian who claims to have discovered the memoirs of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, said yesterday that he stumbled across them by chance during a lecture tour of South America. A former Flemish SS officer handed him the memoirs as a gift after he learnt of Mr Irving's visit from an Argentinian newspaper.

Mr Irving, who denies the existence of the Nazi gas chambers, said: "Jewish groups, who objected to my presence, denounced me in La Nación as an international agitator. At my next meeting in Buenos Aires an elderly gentleman approached me with two brown paper bags containing the memoirs."

"I followed all the correct historical procedures and made him sign an authentication statement. After Eichmann was kidnapped in 1960 in Buenos Aires his



Irving: stumbled on memoirs during tour

family placed the memoirs in secure hands. That person handed them to my contact."

The most interesting part of the memoirs, Mr Irving said, were these chilling words from late 1941: "Heydrich (Eichmann's superior) said to me: 'I have come from the Reichsführer [Hitler]. Now the Führer has ordered the physical destruction of the Jews.'" Mr Irving said: "That shows that Eichmann believed there was an order from Hitler, though it still does not prove there was one."

Eichmann's family did not want Mr Irving to see the memoirs because Eichmann admits total guilt for sending Jews to their death. In the light of this Mr Irving said his view that Hitler did not give the order will be "open to assessment". Mr Irving says that the memoirs are "very disorganised." He is using them, however, to write a biography of Eichmann. "I see him as a dedicated bureaucrat. He was an efficient transport officer rather than a mass murderer."

Martin Gilbert, author of *The Holocaust: The Jewish Tragedy*, said yesterday: "For many years Mr Irving has denied these facts about the Holocaust and now he makes a virtue of finding them."

Free banknotes in The Times

EVERY copy of *The Times* this morning contains a free 25-gulden note from Surinam to help readers, and readers of *The Sunday Times Magazine*, to start a collection of banknotes, a hobby which is rapidly increasing in popularity.

The *Sunday Times International Currency Collection* was introduced yesterday with a Mozambique 100-escudo note given away to 1.4 million readers. The notes can be mounted in an album to be given away in *The Sunday Times Magazine* on January 26; a week

later details of how to obtain a wallet of further notes will be published.

Before that two more notes will be given away, a Peruvian 1,000-intis note in *The Sunday Times Magazine* next Sunday and on the following day a Brazilian 1,000-cruzeiro note in *The Times*.

Readers whose free note is missing from *The Times* today should telephone 071-867 0404 between 10am and 4pm or write to the Promotions Department, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

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|----------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Allied Dunbar | 1822.8 | 3.8 |
| 2 | Equity & Law | 287.1 | 8.4 |
| 3 | Warren & Carter | 170.8 | 8.8 |
| 4 | Standard Life | 304.7 | 9.0 |
| 5 | Black Horse | 396.0 | 9.5 |
| 6 | Teachers | 100.0 | 11.0 |
| 7 | Clinical Medical | 272.7 | 11.8 |
| 8 | Academy | 100.0 | 12.0 |
| 8 | Royal Heritage | 90.6 | 12.0 |
| 10 | Sun Life | 100.0 | 12.2 |
| 11 | Sun Life Distribution | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 12 | London & Manchester | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 13 | London Life | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 13 | Albany | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 15 | Sun Life of Canada | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 16 | Crown | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 17 | Abbey | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 18 | Sun Life Managed | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 19 | Pearl | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 19 | General Portfolio | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 21 | TSP | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 22 | Scottish Equitable | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 22 | Hill Samuel | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 24 | Confederation Life | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 25 | Provident Mutual | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 26 | M & G | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 27 | Friends Provident | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 28 | Prudential | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 28 | Scottish Mutual | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 30 | Scottish Widows | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 31 | Sun Alliance | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 32 | Scottish Amicable | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 33 | NPI | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 34 | Laurentian | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 35 | GRE | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 36 | Manulife | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 37 | Barclays Life | 100.0 | 12.8 |
| 38 | Eagle Star | 100.0 | 12.8 |
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Experts call for 20mph urban limit

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CUTTING urban speed limits could save as many as four lives a day, according to traffic experts urging the government to introduce measures to slow traffic on busy roads.

The government is facing demands for limits on urban roads to be cut from 30mph to 20mph as part of a strategy to reduce Britain's annual toll of 5,000 road deaths.

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety will today call for legislation to reduce speed limits. The demand is supported by traffic experts whose studies highlight simple measures, such as road humps and redesigned junctions, that can slow traffic and lead to a big drop in accidents.

Tim Pharaoh, a lecturer at South Bank Polytechnic, London, who has been involved in pilot schemes for Devon county council, claims that Britain's average of 13 deaths a day could be cut by four by widespread use of traffic "calming" measures.

Forty of the 130 people seriously injured daily could escape unharmful if speeds were sharply reduced. Tests show that pedestrians' injuries rise substantially as speed increases. At 20mph, the chance of survival is high. At 30mph half of pedestrians hit by a car are killed, and at 40mph most are killed.

Speed cuts would not delay drivers, Mr Pharaoh said, because journeys would take less time, with average speeds higher and traffic moving more smoothly.

Mr Pharaoh's theory has been tested in Burnhouse Lane, Exeter, Devon, where the number of accidents has subsequently fallen. The quarter-mile street, which has shops, churches, a village hall and two schools, is almost straight and many drivers broke the 30mph limit, some reaching speeds of 55mph. Pedestrians, emerging from

between parked vehicles, were hit by speeding cars and cyclists were also at risk.

The county council spent £220,000 installing speed humps in the street, at its junctions and in side roads. The 40ft-wide road was narrowed to about 18ft and parking bays were provided, reducing the distance that pedestrians had to cross.

Two cycle tracks, marked by a distinctive red surface, were provided and junctions were offset, forcing drivers to slow down and to concentrate on the crossroads ahead.

Edward Chorton, county engineer, said that the scheme led to accidents declining from nine a year to four. Among children aged under 11, accidents had fallen from three to none. He added: "Accidents that did occur were less serious because we have been able to produce a very large decrease in traffic speeds."

Top speeds are down to between 29mph and 33mph, and to 14mph at each road hump. Malcolm Riffkind, the transport secretary, has given councils wider powers to introduce traffic-calming measures, increasing grants for safety schemes by 38 per cent to £42 million for 1992-93.

He said that local schemes had the potential to save 170 lives and prevent 2,200 serious injuries a year.

Mr Pharaoh estimates that a national strategy of building work, including road humps, chicanes, narrowing roads and landscaping, would cost £600 million a year for 10 years. That would be equivalent to 40 per cent of the projected national trunk road budget. However, he said that such traffic calming could reduce the cost of deaths, bereavement, suffering, injury and damage, valued at £2 billion a year.

Letters, page 15



Exotic encounter: Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest conservation group, comes face to

face with a beast more at home in the Andes than in the Chilterns (Michael McCarthy writes). Ms Ashbrook, Britain's premier cam-

paigner for countryside rights of way, came across the llama yesterday while investigating claims that a public footpath had been

improperly diverted near Henley, Buckinghamshire. She has at least found no obstacle to her inclusion in this year's Who's Who.

Gene therapy to go ahead

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NEW treatments for inherited diseases such as cancer and cystic fibrosis will be approved by the government this week.

The decision to sanction so-called somatic gene therapy, a technique which replaces defective or missing genes, has been made by the health department's committee on the ethics of gene therapy.

The committee, chaired by Sir Cecil Cloutier, former chairman of the police complaints authority, is understood to have decided that gene therapy, the mapping and manipulation of man's genetic codes, is ethically no different from ad-

ministering drugs or carrying out an organ transplant.

The approval, to be announced on Thursday, could bring the possibility of treating about 4,000 inherited diseases. Gene therapy might also lead to new treatments for some of the most common causes of illness and death including heart disease.

The Medical Research Council is planning several gene therapy experiments. Teams, including one at St Mary's hospital, west London, working on cystic fibrosis, are ready to start.

In America results have been extremely encouraging. Amy Harper aged four, of

Cleveland, Ohio, is the first person to have gene therapy. She suffers from a rare inherited immune-deficiency disease that made her so susceptible to passing infections that she could not leave her home.

A copy of the gene missing from her body, which controls production of a disease-fighting enzyme, was put into around one billion of her white blood cells.

The white blood cells were then put back in her bloodstream and have begun producing significant amounts of the important enzyme. Amy now goes skating and dancing and attends nursery school.

Fawlty hotel fails to curry favour

AN undercover hotel inspector found himself at the centre of a Fawlty Towers-style farce when he ordered dinner at a country hotel and then found that staff had ordered an Indian takeaway.

Olaf White had visited the 14-bed hotel in the north of England incognito to test its services for inclusion in *Signpost*, the British hotel guide, when staff recommended that he try one of their "special" curries for dinner.

But as he was walking into the dining room he bumped into one of the waiters racing in with his curry — in a tin foil container from a local Indian

takeaway. Christopher Carney-Smith, publisher of *Signpost*, said: "We were considering including the hotel, which will remain nameless, in our guide for the first time. Olaf checked up and found that the kitchen was closed and there was no one available to cook the dinner so they had sent out for a takeaway. The curry was quite tasty, and I suppose the hotel has to get marks for initiative."

Signpost has been published annually since 1935 and has up to 325 entries from the Ritz to tiny country hotels.

Priest gives warning on Opus Dei founder

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE greatest challenge yet to what could be the most contentious canonisation this century has been launched by leading members of the Roman Catholic church in this country and abroad.

Vladimir Felzmann, a senior priest in the Westminster diocese in London, has given a warning of a scandal and divisions in the church if plans to beatify the founder of Opus Dei, a cult-like international group inside the Roman Catholic Church, are followed by his canonisation.

Father Felzmann, Cardinal Basil Hume's director of pilgrimages and chaplain to young people, has criticised the speed and timing of the beatification, which is the second step on the road to sainthood. He has accused the founder of Opus Dei of defending Hitler and given an account of his "pro-Hitler and Germany views".

Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, who was born in 1902, founded Opus Dei in 1928 and died in 1975, was declared venerable by the Pope in 1990. This is the first step to sainthood, and he is to be beatified, or declared "blessed", on May 17. Critics say the process could lead to the fastest canonisation in recent history.

Criticism of the beatification have been aired in the influential Catholic journal *The Tablet*. According to today's *Newsweek* magazine, several former members were refused a hearing at church tribunals called to investigate the founder's life.

Father Felzmann, a member of Opus Dei for 22 years, left the organisation in 1982. A spokesman for Opus Dei said Father Felzmann's acquaintance with Mgr Escrivá had been "relatively superficial" and that his statements about support for Hitler were "completely false, as well as quite outrageous".

Leading article, page 15

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GEORG KACHER: CAR MAGAZINE (APRIL 1991)

"On the subject of space and cockpit design, the new S-class once again sets the undisputed standard of all things in luxury motoring."

ROLF HARING: FAST LANE (MAY 1991)

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PETER DRON: FAST LANE (MAY 1991)

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STEVE CROPLEY: BUYING CARS (DECEMBER 1991)

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Pollution hits firm

Baron and his strike

BUSI

Pollution watchdog hits firms harder

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

COMPANIES causing environmental damage are much more likely to be prosecuted in future by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, an internal inspectorate document seen by *The Times* discloses.

Prosecution is being forcefully recommended as a policy option in the document, a 22-page set of guidelines which has been sent by David Slater, the Inspectorate's director, to all his 143 inspectors in England and Wales.

That marks a formal break with the tradition of the Inspectorate's predecessor before 1987, the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate, which rarely took errant companies to court, preferring to work by consultation and persuasion. Some of the older HMIP inspectors still feel that prosecuting a company represents a failure of their work.

Dr Slater, who took over the Inspectorate of Pollution last May, has other ideas, and his guidelines set out the benefits of prosecution in straightforward language. These are publicly embarrassing a polluting firm into remedying its ways; inflicting a financial penalty on it for the harm it has done; as a means of publicly demonstrating the Inspectorate's

policy and attitude; and as a means of reflecting public concern.

The document emphasises that in any case which is felt serious enough, inspectors should apply for trial in the crown court, where penalties are higher, rather than before magistrates. If the trial is in a magistrates' court, the document says, the bench — "who may not be aware" — should be reminded that the 1990 Environment Protection Act allows them to impose fines of up to £20,000 for pollution offences.

Dr Slater is already practising what he preaches. In the first four years of the Inspectorate's life there were only



Slater: his guidelines recommend prosecution

ten prosecutions of companies for pollution offences: in the eight months since he took over there have already been five, and nine more cases are in the pipeline. One of his first official acts was to sanction the prosecution of the Atomic Energy Authority for the unauthorised discharge of radioactive tritium gas from scrapped luminous watch dials: the authority was fined £3,000. Ten days ago, the owners of a stone quarry in the Cotswolds were fined £100 with £2,100 costs for operating without a registration certificate.

After that case Dr Slater said: "A serious view is taken of industrialists who knowingly operate potentially polluting plants without complying with the pollution control legislation. The Inspectorate is committed to ensuring a safe and clean environment and legislation will be rigorously enforced."

Dr Slater, aged 51, a professional chemist and chartered engineer, was chosen from outside the civil service to head the Inspectorate by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. His tough approach is in part a reflection of the new pollution regime brought in by the 1990 Environment Protection Act, which will mean strict new licences for the 5,000 most polluting plants, such as oil refineries, tanneries, steel plants and chemical works, to be phased in over the next four years. Inspectorate sources say that companies who fail to apply for their new licences are likely to be ready targets for prosecution.

Dr Slater gave a warning to British industry of the rigorous regime he intended to run in an interview with *The Times* after taking up his position. Last May he said: "We are conscious of practicalities, and we can be flexible, but at the end of the day the name of the game is clean-up."

Osborne's anger is obscured by smoke

By JOE JOSEPH

WELL, that's one less thing for John Osborne to rail against. In an uncharacteristically mild letter to *The Times* today, in which he mostly confines his spleen to a "God rot the powers of Brussels and Westminster" — and to hell with Burgundy — the playwright says he is not alone in turning against EC bureaucrats who would rob him of unspiced, robust and fragrant Turkish smokes, "one of life's few and reliable pleasures".

Mr Osborne, who likes to get mad about three new things before breakfast and preferably to get even by lunchtime, aired his outrage over this new European "diktat" in a volcanic letter to *The Times* on December 26.

What seemed to anger him particularly was that this ban on his favourite cigarettes was imposed by a bunch of "newly-sprung nation states", like Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal which "have been administered by regimes that were Nazi, fascist, communist, crypto-fascist for several decades during my own lifetime... these successful and happily empowered heirs of Hitler, Mussolini, Himmler, Franco, Honecker, Salazar, Petain, Laval and the Greek colonels are to be enjoined to deprive me of the liberty and choice, even in the matter of what cigarettes I may be allowed to smoke."

He seems to have found some comfort, he now writes, in the piles of sympathetic letters he has received from around the world in response to his battle cry. Also on the doormat were parcels of the soon-to-be-outlawed Turkish cigarettes from well-wishers, and promises of more. He says he probably now has enough to see him out of this world. If heaven is a No Smoking Zone, watch out.

Letters, page 15



Forbidden pleasure: Osborne with fresh supplies of his favourite cigarettes

Fire kills brothers aged two and four

Two brothers died in a fire at their home in Uttroter, Staffordshire, yesterday. Thomas Cunningham, aged four, and Gary, aged two, were carried from the burning house by firemen but were dead on arrival at hospital.

Their mother Sharon, aged 25, and baby Lucy, were rescued by Melvyn Mycock, aged 32, a neighbour who saw smoke coming from the house. He said: "I ran to the back door and tried to kick it down but couldn't so I yelled at the bedroom window to wake up Sharon. She passed the baby onto the bathroom roof."

Police say that the cause of the fire is uncertain but foul play has been ruled out. The children's father, Carl, was at work.

Search for murder knife

Council workmen were helping police to search drains for a hunting knife used to stab to death Richard Lyddon, a male nurse aged 36, in a toilet at Reading railway station on Friday night.

Police were also conducting house-to-house enquiries in a search for witnesses to the unprovoked attack on Mr Lyddon, who was returning home to Taunton, Somerset, after a successful job interview at Upton Park Hospital in Slough, Berkshire.

Dame dies

Dame Anne Godwin, chairman of the TUC from 1961-2, has died aged 94. Dame Anne, of Worcester Park, Surrey, was general secretary of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union from 1950-62, and served as a BBC governor from 1962-8.

Child robbers

A woman aged 90 from Newcastle upon Tyne is in hospital suffering from shock after leaving her door open for a meals on wheels delivery and being pushed to the floor and robbed of £37 by two children, one aged seven.

Film encore

Nellie Templeman, aged 76, a silent film pianist, came out of retirement to accompany a three-hour screening of D.W. Griffith's classic 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation* at the Regent Cinema in Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Animal magic

Pets including dogs, cats, hamsters and birds are being allowed in wards at the George Eliot Hospital at Nuneaton, Warwickshire, to cheer up their sick owners.

Brief history

The Horsforth Museum, in Leeds, West Yorkshire, is appealing for donations for an exhibition of underwear through the ages, which it plans to mount in March.

Bond winners

This week's Premium Bond winners: £100,000, number 10XB 957653, from Wirral (£735 holding); £50,000, 3SS 240895, Hampshire (£106); £25,000, 9DL 884092, Edinburgh (£2,000).

Letters, page 15
Education, pages 25, 27

Lilley to aid pubs hit by shake-up

By DAVID YOUNG

THE cabinet minister responsible for implementing the government's controversial shake-up of the public house, trade has agreed to take up the cases of 30 publicans in his own constituency who feel that they are victims of the changes.

Under rules in the Beer Orders, introduced after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on brewing, the trade and industry department has told brewers to limit the tied houses they own to 2,000. Big brewers have had to dispose of many public houses to sitting tenants, smaller brewers and companies that run pub chains but have no brewing interest.

However, there is growing concern among ministers that some brewers are using the legislation, and a requirement to bring pub tenancies under the Tenant and Landlord Act, as an excuse to force existing tenants to take on new leases at much higher prices and with unfair conditions.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, has been asked by licensees in his St Albans constituency to take up their cases and is understood to be angry at the way some brewers are interpreting the rules.

Mr Lilley has already won a victory by pressing the big brewers to accept binding independent arbitration in a dispute with the National Licensed Victuallers Association (NLVA) over rent increases and notices to quit served on pub tenants. He has also rejected calls from some brewers to extend the deadline by which they must

free a number of tied houses. Whitbread and Allied-Lyons had sought deferment of the November 1 deadline.

A detailed file on complaints from publicans in Mr Lilley's constituency is being prepared for him and he is prepared to call informal talks with the brewers to discuss the issue.

Mr Lilley has also been given information by Camra, the beer drinkers' group, which has its national headquarters in his constituency, on how some brewers are using the rules to change the character of traditional pubs by putting them under the control of subsidiary leisure divisions.

Richard Jacobsen, chairman of the St Albans Licensed Victuallers Association, said: "I don't think Mr Lilley realised that so many publicans to quit were being issued to pub tenants. The notices to quit expire in July, so that tenants will not, by then, have the protection of the Landlord and Tenant Act. The only alternative for many are long leases at high rents."

The Office of Fair Trading has also voiced concern that brewers, especially Grand Metropolitan, are still using the Beer Orders as a reason for changing tenancy agreements.

The NLVA's operations executive, Neville Marshall, said: "The brewers are using every excuse in the book to introduce these leases. There is no reason flowing from the Beer Orders why leases have to be introduced at all."

A spokesman for Grand Metropolitan said that the company was satisfied that its position was correct.

Legal system goes on trial

HOW well do judges and lawyers do their job in court? Should they wear wigs and gowns? And should the defendant's criminal record be made known to the jury? The performance of judges, barristers and solicitors will be under formal scrutiny for the first time this week when jurors in crown court trials throughout England and Wales are asked these and other questions about the workings of the criminal justice system.

Jurors will have to rate how the judge and barristers did their jobs — "very well, fairly well, not very well or not at all well" — in terms of knowing the facts, putting the case across and dealing with their opponents' points. The judge will be asked to give an opinion on the jury's verdict and whether his or her own summing up was pointed towards acquittal, conviction or neither.

The survey, conducted for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, is part of the biggest study of the crown court in action. It begins with a one-week pilot project in Snaresbrook, east London, Kingston upon

Thames and Reading crown courts. That will be followed by a full study covering all 90 crown court centres in England and Wales for two weeks in February.

Professor Michael Zander, who devised the study, said: "We believe it is the most ambitious project of its kind, either here or probably anywhere in the world." Defendants will be asked how often their first meeting with their barristers is on the morning of trial, and how often barristers return their brief at the last moment. They will be asked about plea-bargaining and whether the discount given for a guilty plea created undue pressure to plead guilty. The survey will also ask if they have any complaints about treatment by the police.



Runciman: survey vital to commission's work

The survey, which has the full backing of the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice, includes nine different questionnaires, to go also to the police and court clerks, as well as to lawyers.

Lord Runciman of Doxford, chairman of the royal commission, said: "We regard the study as very important for our work. We urge all concerned to fill out the questionnaires. The results will be significant in providing a solid factual base for many of the topics within our terms of reference."

Black pupils beat whites in tests

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BLACK pupils, traditionally seen as under-achievers compared with their white classmates, scored higher grades than white pupils in the mathematics and science test sat by seven-year-olds last summer, according to research commissioned by the government's examination advisers.

In mathematics, 10 per cent of Afro-Caribbean seven-year-olds attained level three in the national curriculum mathematics tests compared with 6 per cent of white pupils. Nineteen per cent achieved level three in science, against 18 per cent of white children.

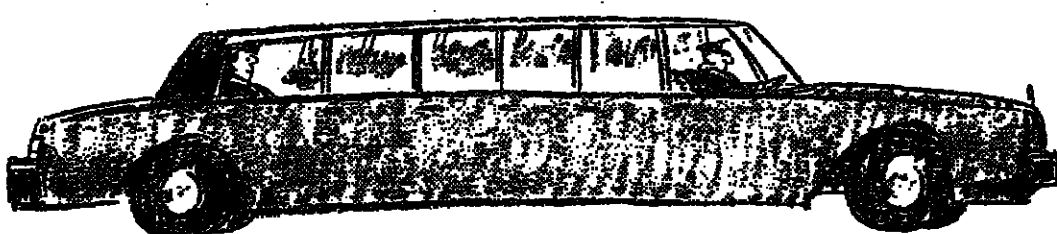
Black pupils' results in English, however, were disappointing, say the researchers from Leeds University who examined the results of 2,400 children in 16 education authorities. The survey has yet to be considered by the School Examinations and Assessment Council, which commissioned it. Diane

Shorrocks, project director, said the survey also showed that fewer pupils from ethnic minorities gained the top grade in English. There was also a disproportionately high number in the lowest levels of English and mathematics.

Ms Shorrocks said the most likely explanation for the discrepancy was that English was not spoken in many of the children's homes. A £10,000 pupils' "clocking on" scheme has saved £20,000 in teacher time and improved attendances, according to David Caswell, headmaster of St George's Roman Catholic School for boys, Swaythling, Southampton.

Six hundred pupils use electronic cards to clock on for lessons. The system, introduced last September, has replaced registers. Parents are contacted when the computer shows that a pupil is absent without permission.

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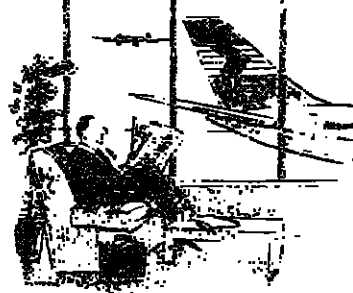
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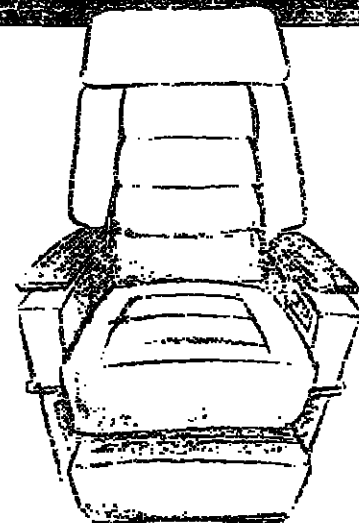
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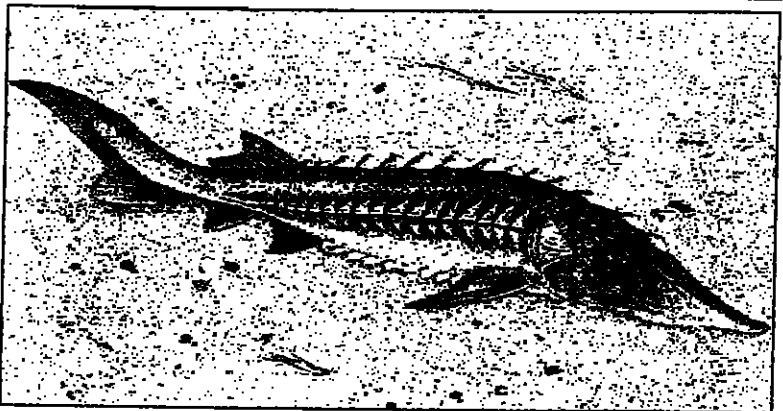
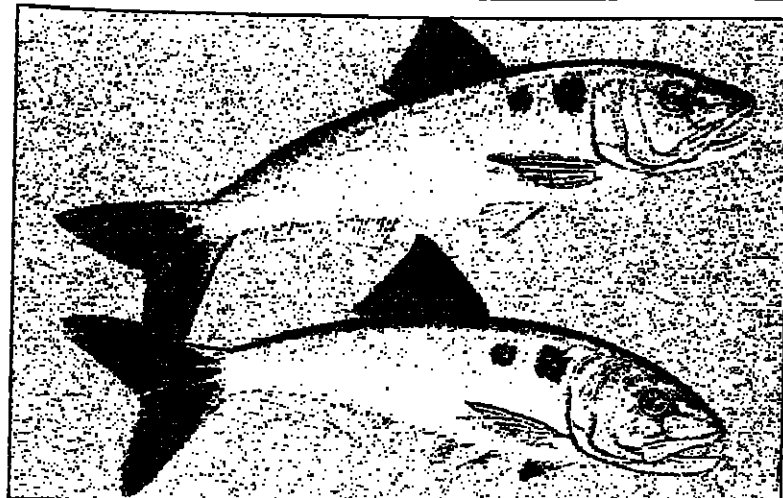
Lifeline wanted to save rare fish

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a quarter of the native freshwater fish species in Britain are extinct, close to extinction or seriously endangered, according to a new report. Their plight is blamed mainly on over-fishing, air and water pollution and the growing number of dams and weirs blocking the passage of fish that run up rivers to spawn.

Urgent action is needed to protect fish habitats in rivers, lakes and estuaries and to establish new populations of rare species, according to Peter Maitland, a freshwater biologist, who has made a five-year study of native fish stocks for the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), the government's chief wildlife advisory agency.

Britain is, or has been, home to 42 native species of freshwater fish. Of these, Mr Maitland says, 10 require special conservation measures if they are to survive in, or be restored to, British waters: the burbot, the houting,



Under threat: the allis shad (Solway Firth) and burbot (eastern England), top, and the sturgeon (estuaries) and arctic charr (Lake District)

the vendace, the allis shad, the twaite shad, the pout, the pollan, the smelt, the arctic charr and the common sturgeon. No burbot have been seen for years; the sturgeon is rare; the allis shad has no known breeding ar-

reas and the smelt and arctic charr, though more common, are in decline.

The most immediate priorities, Mr Maitland believes, are to safeguard rare and localised species by creating new populations, and

to protect and clean up habitats such as estuaries. English Nature, the newly formed England section of the NCC, is sympathetic to the idea. The vendace is likely to become the first fish to join the list of rare plants.

insects and other creatures covered by the species recovery programme launched last spring with a £100,000 budget that is due to be doubled from next April.

Only four fish — the burbot, vendace, pout and

allis shad — are on Schedule V of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, which makes it an offence to catch or handle them intentionally. Legal protection came too late (the burbot was already extinct) to be of much use.

First appearance for Georgia Jagger

Rolling Stone Mick Jagger became a father for the fifth time yesterday when his Texan wife Jerry Hall gave birth to a daughter, Georgia May Agnew, in a London hospital. Their other children are Elizabeth, aged 7, and James, aged 6. Jagger also has daughters, Jade, from his first wife Bianca Jagger, and Karis, by Marsha Hunt.

wine cup in a pre-Mardi Gras parade — when he landed a part in a Broadway play, *Death and the Maiden*.

Nichelle Nichols, Lieutenant Uhura of *Star Trek* got her star installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and gave credit to Martin Luther King Jr. for persuading her to keep the job. Miss Nichols, aged 55, said King told her: "You have the first non-stereotypical job in television."

Freed hostage Tom Sutherland made an emotional return to his family kirk, at Skinfolds near Falkirk, yesterday and thanked the congregation for their prayers. On Saturday he was welcomed by 40,000 fans when he watched Glasgow Rangers' beat Hibs at Ibrox where he once played in the reserves.

David Lange, the former New Zealand prime minister, married for the second time during a holiday in Scotland, according to a newspaper. His bride was Margaret Pope, his speech writer.

Richard Dreyfuss, aged 44, backed out of the opportunity of a lifetime — playing Bacchus enthroned on a giant



Kate O'Mara, aged 52, star of *Howards Way*, has been named in a divorce petition against a husband 19 years her junior. Mrs June Willis, mother of two, alleges that her actor husband Richard has committed adultery with Ms O'Mara.

Workers wary at taking their offices home

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE predicted explosion in teleworking, or telecommuting, in which employees use the telephone and computers to work from home, has been significantly over-estimated, according to a new study.

By 1995, the number of people working from home will rise by about 5 per cent to about 1.3 million, a report by the OTR Group, of London, says. "This is considerably below the 30 per cent annual growth rates predicted by some observers," it says.

The report argues that few

people have the qualities, which include self-discipline and organisational skills, to be successful telecommuters.

Furthermore, disadvantages of teleworking so far outweigh advantages that it is unattractive to large sections of the population, the report says. Surveys show that few people relish the idea of working at home, deprived of the social interaction of the office.

In addition, people working at home can feel neglected, suffer falling self-esteem and miss out on potential career moves, the report says. Middle managers remain highly conservative in attitude, and, particularly in larger companies, worry that staff outside the office are too difficult to supervise.

The forces driving companies to adopt telecommuting are also "surprisingly weak", the report says.

Arguments for teleworking include cutting the cost of office space, reducing recruitment costs by keeping staff, such as women who have a baby, and environmental gains from, for example, fewer people driving to work. Drawbacks include the cost of necessary technology and greater management effort.

The report suggests that only certain jobs, such as word-processing, insurance broking, telesales, writing and accountancy, are really suitable for teleworking.

No call for love or money

London: Love and money are the biggest taboo subjects for British telephone users, a survey commissioned by British Telecom has revealed. Usually confident British callers come to a halt when conversation swings to matters of the heart or of the wallet.

Most unwanted calls, apart from the bank manager (17 per cent), were when the boss rings us at home (14 per cent) or an ex-partner calls (10 per cent).

Good read

Dhaka: Dhaka's seventh English-language daily made its appearance yesterday bringing the number of newspapers published each day in the Bangladeshi capital to 54. There are 253 weeklies. (AFP)

Class triads

Hong Kong: Police have charged seven teenagers, who claimed links to triad societies, for extorting 45p a week each from classmates. (AFP)

Army scandal

Tokyo: Michio Watanabe, the foreign minister, has acknowledged the Japanese military's role in forcing women to serve soldiers as prostitutes during World War II. There were 200,000 "comfort women" serving Japanese troops. (AFP)

Gay fugitive

Toronto: An Argentine homosexual who feared persecution because of his sexual orientation has been given asylum. (AFP)

Phlegmatic

New Orleans: Bill Travers hopes to auction his collection of spittoons for £55,000 in order to make way for his new hobby — collecting steam train whistles. (AP)

Fans revenge

Lancaster: Peter Marshall, an author who called Elvis Presley a sham, was beaten up in a shopping centre by the star's fans after a book signing.

Pregnancy tax angers Australians

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN
IN SYDNEY

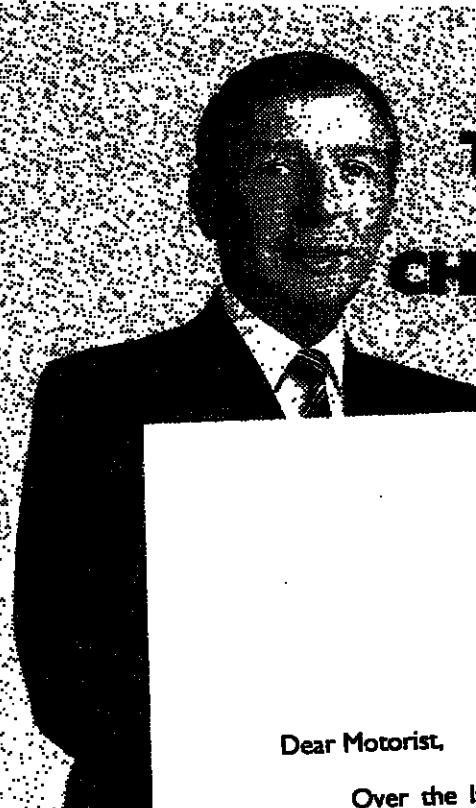
ILL-conceived is hardly the word. A government anti-recession scheme to tax Australian women during pregnancy was delivered to howls of protest from women's group and church leaders at the weekend.

Even in this land of chauvinists — where an attempt at enlightenment last week saw a men's magazine splashing a pregnant woman naked under the headline "Banged up and beautiful" — the new tax proposal was widely disbelieved.

Nonetheless, it is under consideration this week by the government of the new Labor prime minister, Paul Keating — himself a devoted father of four. Mr Keating is facing claims that his government is reinforcing just about every myth about Australian men and their overbearing influence on women.

Outraged women's groups, church leaders and many Labor politicians have condemned the proposal drawn up for Mr Keating's deputy prime minister, Brian Howe.

Anglican bishop Bruce Wilson said the tax was "an attack on women". "Australia has a very low birth rate as it is. To raise funds by discriminating against pregnant women is unjust," he said.



AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL BRITISH MOTORISTS FROM KWIK-FIT'S CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOM FARMER

Kwik-Fit
Our aim is 100% Customer Satisfaction
17 Cornhill Road
Edinburgh EH1 4DD
Telephone: 031-337 9200
Fax: 031-337 0062
Telex: 721675

Dear Motorist,

Over the last 20 years Kwik-Fit's growth and success has been due to the support we have received from our customers. It has always been our aim to provide the highest standards of service and the best overall value for money in all of our 600 centres in the UK and Europe. Last year alone we served over 4 million motorists and fitted millions of tyres, exhausts and batteries.

Our continuous monitoring of our customers' opinions showed that in the last 12 months we achieved 99% customer satisfaction. But that's not good enough. We want all of our customers to be nothing short of "delighted" with the service we provide.

A recent report published in *Which?* magazine indicated a need to tighten up certain aspects of our initial diagnostic procedures. As always, whenever we ourselves discover, or are told of any need for improvement, we react quickly so that we can be sure that our customers receive an even better service in the years to come.

We have updated and improved the Kwik-Fit Code of Practice which is displayed prominently in all our centres. It's a Code that over 2000 Kwik-Fit Fitters and Managers have pledged in writing to uphold to make sure that our customers receive the standard of service they have a right to expect.

We are introducing new procedures whereby every customer will, on request receive a written diagnostic report on any work required, and customers will be given every opportunity to comment on the service they have received.

We are reviewing and intensifying our training programmes in order to look after our customers better than ever before. Additionally, we are implementing the Government initiative "Investors in People", and to further ensure total quality control throughout every part of our organisation, we are vigorously pursuing BS5750 certification.

To help us monitor our service performance levels, we will be working closely with The Automobile Association which will carry out regular independent inspections of our premises and standards, bringing to us the benefit of their extensive knowledge and understanding of motorists' requirements.

I have established a special free 24 hour, 7 day "Customer Hotline" (0800 269 866) and I will personally be keeping in close touch with this facility. All these efforts are to provide you with a quality of service unrivalled in the automotive business and which I hope will give you total confidence in Kwik-Fit.

I would like to thank the many customers and shareholders who have contacted me with encouragement and support. I also wish to assure everyone that I believe that Kwik-Fit is a great company and that Kwik-Fit people will continue in their determination to be the best.

I know, as I am sure you do, that things can go wrong from time to time but we are not prepared to compromise our good name and all the hard work that so many people have put in over the last 20 years. Myself and everyone in Kwik-Fit have never been more committed to prove that... you really can't get better than a Kwik-Fit fitter.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Farmer

Tom Farmer CBE,
Chairman and Chief Executive.



Kwik-Fit

YOU CAN'T GET BETTER THAN A KWIK-FIT FITTER.

Delhi gambles on early Punjab poll

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DELHI has authorised early parliamentary and state assembly elections in Punjab in a gamble to end the 12-year secessionist war there that last year alone cost 6,000 lives.

The move will test the government's belief that terrorists fighting for an independent Punjab are on the run and have lost what little popular support they ever enjoyed. The army has been deployed in strength to try to prevent a bloodbath.

The government has promised the poll will be held by the middle of next month, but police chiefs in the state have asked for a delay to allow them more time to round up known militants.

The Indian government is determined to end years of direct rule over a state that has the reputation of being one of the most violent places in the world. Despite the war, Punjab remains the breadbasket of India and one of its most economically powerful states.

Terrorist groups oppose the elections on the grounds that they will legitimise Punjab as part of India. The government abandoned attempts to

include Punjab in the general election last June because of increased violence in which more than 30 state assembly candidates were shot dead. Polls were again postponed last September. This time the government appears determined to go ahead.

Two of the three largest factions of the Akalis, the traditional Sikh party, have announced a boycott of the election and the third is likely to do likewise. There are seven factions in all. Other militant organisations, despite opposing the elections, will put forward their own candidates under independent labels. Voters will undoubtedly face death threats if they support anyone else.

Punjab is 57 per cent Sikh and 43 per cent Hindu. The Akalis traditionally capture the Sikh vote and the Congress (I) has always taken the bulk of the Hindu vote. This time it will face competition from the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Hindu nationalist organisation.

The planned elections come at a time when terrorist organisations have taken a severe beating in Punjab, although they continue to wield

substantial power. The government recently brought back K.P.S. Gill, a hardline police chief, to fight the militants. He was accused of brutality during his last tenure. At the same time the army is handing out food and medicines in a "hearts and minds" campaign to try to win over the population.

The poll will lose much of its meaning if none of the main Akali groups take part. The seven factions have all been warned by terrorist organisations that anybody standing for election faces assassination. S.B. Chavan, the home minister, has announced that the army will remain in the state in strength for some time after the poll.

The Press Trust of India reported yesterday that Indian security forces had killed Manjit Singh, a leading Sikh militant who has been sought for more than 100 killings related to the Sikh separatist drive in Punjab. Manjit Singh carried the designation of "lieutenant-general" in the Bhindranwale Tigers Force of Khalistan, one of several groups fighting for a Sikh homeland.



Cold comfort: a group of 15 men, aged 14 to 85, praying and cradling blocks of ice during the 37th annual ice-bathing event at a Tokyo shrine yesterday. The ceremony is believed to bring long life and good health

Cuban court sentences armed exiles to death

FROM REUTERS
IN HAVANA

A CUBAN court, meting out "revolutionary justice", has sentenced three Cuban exiles from the United States to death by firing squad for planning terrorist attacks on the communist-ruled island.

The provincial court on Saturday sentenced Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, aged 38, Daniel Candelario Santovenia, aged 36, and Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedrosa, aged 26, all from Miami, Florida, after finding them guilty on charges of terrorism, sabotage and enemy pro-

paganda. The three accused were captured with arms and explosives on December 29, shortly after landing on Cuba's northern coast. They have the right of appeal to the ruling council of state, headed by President Castro.

In a statement announcing their capture, the interior

ministry said last week that the men had planned attacks on Cuba. On Friday, Washington denied Cuban allegations of involvement in the three-man sabotage mission. A spokesman said the three were not American citizens but may have been legal residents in the United States.

Chinese promote condoms

Peking, China, home of the world's largest organised birth control campaign, is seeking to make more people use the condom and taking them off the pill.

In an article entitled "Here comes the condom", the official *China Daily* said yesterday that the government, which is the main supplier of contraceptives, will order 961 million condoms in 1992, 11 per cent more than last year.

Liu Chun Mei, the director of the contraceptive division at the family planning commission, said China's birth control industry would have to obey the laws of market economics. She said: "The industry will have to renovate its products."

Workers at one cotton spinning mill in Peking were upset because they were only issued ten condoms per month, the paper said. The state will buy only 40 million birth control pills, a decline of 53.5 per cent from 1991, and orders for diaphragms and spermicidal creams will drop.

China, the world's most populous nation with 1.1 billion people, vigorously promotes a one-child-per-family policy.

The *China Daily* reported that, until now, Chinese women have mainly used tubal ligation and intra-uterine devices for contraception while men preferred vasectomy. (Reuters)

Minister assesses UN work

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

LORD Caithness, the minister of state at the Foreign Office who signed the United Nations-brokered Paris accords on Cambodia for Britain on October 23, visited the war-ravaged eastern sector of the country yesterday to assess international efforts to bring lasting peace.

Crossing the flyblown border with Vietnam at Bavet, in the shadow of the Black Virgin mountain, he drove across a landscape depopulated after some of the worst massacres of Khmer Rouge rule in 1975-8. A heavy security escort was provided by the Phnom Penh government, one of the four parties to the peace accord, although Khmer Rouge activity in eastern Cambodia is now minimal. The 145-mile journey took six hours.

From Phnom Penh, a white-painted, French-crewed aircraft of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia flew him to Battambang, western Cambodia, where Christian Outreach, a British aid agency, is helping to prepare for the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border. The operation is fraught with danger as the region is laced with hundreds of thousands of landmines.

An estimated 300 Cambodians lose limbs to mines every month. In Battambang, Lord Caithness visited a Red Cross centre where artificial limbs are made.

The first British minister to visit Cambodia since 1970, Lord Caithness paid a brief visit to the temple of Angkor. He is due to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk today.

Ferry deaths

Shimonoseki: Five people died in hospital and four bodies were recovered from the sea after a ferry capsized in rough seas off southwestern Japan. The ferry, designed to carry 24 people, had at least 32 on board. (AP)

Chile to pay up

Washington: Chile is to pay £1.4 million compensation to the families of Orlando Letelier, the former Chilean envoy, and an aide, killed in a 1976 car bombing here by agents of General Augusto Pinochet's military junta. (AFP)

Ban on guns

Manila: The Philippines imposed a five-month gun ban to try to avert bloodshed during the run-up to the general election on May 11. Politicians also have been barred from keeping private armies. (Reuters)

Rwanda protest

Nairobi: An opposition protest against the government brought Butare, Rwanda's second city, to a standstill, according to Rwanda radio, monitored here. The peaceful protest called for a national conference. (Reuters)

Police cave in

Harare: Zimbabwean police returned passports of a British-South African potholing team, arrested as unlawful miners while attempting a record descent below the Chimanimani mountains. Police had not heard of potholing.

Simon songs fail to attract blacks

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

BLACK radical groups who have vowed to disrupt the South African tour of Paul Simon, the American singer-composer, claimed victory after a meagre, virtually all-white audience turned up for the opening concert. Only about 40,000 people, fewer than 1,000 of them black, attended Saturday night's performance, which organisers had said would draw more than 70,000.

Because of threats of violence by the Azanian Youth Organisation, until last week the virtually unknown youth wing of the almost equally obscure Azanian People's Organisation, police ordered that attendance at the Ellis Park rugby stadium in central Johannesburg, built to accommodate more than 70,000 spectators, should be cut.

The audience gave Simon a tumultuous welcome when he appeared on the vast specially built stage. He dedicated the first of the five concerts he is to give in South Africa to Headman Sabalala, a member of the Black Mambaz group, who

was murdered near Durban last month.

Harvey Goldsmith, the London-based international pop-concert promoter, said angrily that, far from being an event marking the end of the cultural boycott of South Africa, Simon's tour might be the last by an international star. He accused the media of scaring people away by their reporting of the threats of violence. Unused tickets for Saturday night's concert were made valid for Simon's second concert last night.

Reports yesterday said most blacks seemed to have ignored the personal endorsement of the tour by Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, at a cocktail party he gave for the American singer on Friday night. Mr Mandela urged blacks to attend in thousands.

But the *City Press* newspaper said that many blacks could not afford the tickets, priced between 40 and 80 rands (£40-£80).

Life and times, page 15

THE KWIK-FIT CODE OF PRACTICE

The Kwik-Fit Fitter's Commitment:

- Always treat the customer's vehicle with care and always fit Protective Seat Covers.
- Ensure that the customer's vehicle is inspected by a technically qualified staff member.
- Ensure that the initial diagnosis is confirmed by another technically qualified staff member prior to work commencing.
- Examine the vehicle with the customer and give an honest appraisal of the work required.
- Give a binding quotation which includes all associated charges prior to work commencing.
- Ensure that all customers are aware that any non-exchange part or component removed from their vehicle is available for them to take away.
- Ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with the company's laid down procedures.
- Inform the customer immediately of any complications or delays.
- Ensure that all completed work is checked by a technically qualified staff member.
- Offer to inspect the finished work with the customer at the time of delivery.

I fully understand the meaning of and the purpose of the Kwik-Fit Code of Practice.

I understand my responsibilities and will comply with every aspect of the Code.

Signed: Richard Heathcotte

Name (print): RICHARD HEATHCOTTE

Centre: SOUTHPORT



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07/1091

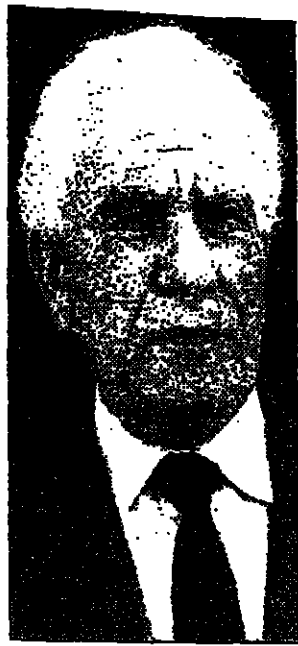
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07/1091

Chadli resignation offers relief to Arab neighbours



Chadli: his action poses new dangers

THE dramatic resignation of Chadli Bendjedid, the Algerian president, will ease the fears of officials in governments around the Mediterranean afraid of an imminent Islamic electoral victory.

But North Africa watchers believe the *coup de théâtre* will only delay the inevitable extinction of President Chadli's ruling National Liberation Front as a credible political force. The second round of the general elections, scheduled for Thursday, now almost certainly will not take place, at least until after presidential polls are held, probably at the end of next month or in March.

Diplomatic sources said senior officials in the army had been preparing the ground for the departure of President Chadli, and the dissolution of the National Assembly, ever since the Muslim fundamen-

The Algiers constitutional coup will only delay the final fall from power of the ruling party, discredited among the country's youth, John Phillips writes

talist Islamic Salvation Front won a huge victory in the first round of the parliamentary elections on December 26.

The fundamentalists had made no secret of their intention to abolish the material privileges enjoyed by army officers if, as expected, they won the second round and formed a government dedicated to setting up an Islamic state. If the fundamentalists obtained a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly they would also have been in a position to amend Algeria's pluralist constitution.

The ruling National Liberation Front, which had ob-

tained only 16 seats in the first round compared with 188 for the Islamic front, had sought to regain some lost ground by accusing the fundamentalists of electoral malpractices. However, the allegation lacked conviction.

The December 26 vote was widely regarded as the freest ever seen in the Arab world. Observers from all political parties, as well as foreign diplomats, were given free access to polling stations. There was little apparent evidence of interference during balloting even in fundamentalist strongholds in Algiers, the capital.

The initial success of the democratic experiment was worrying to the governments of Algeria's neighbours, Tunisia and Morocco, where fundamentalist movements have been suppressed. In Tunisia, the government yesterday indicated tacit support for the constitutional coup.

The political manoeuvre was also greeted with relief yesterday in France where officials fear an exodus from its former colony if an Islamic state came into being there. Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, issued a carefully crafted statement in which he described President Chadli's resignation as "an important event heavy with consequences".

He said France reaffirmed its solidarity with the Algerian people but made no mention of the democratic process. This omission was

interpreted by political experts in Paris as a sign that France was not overly eager to see the second ballot go ahead in Algeria.

But the wary international approval will not be sufficient to bolster the ruling party. If Algerian army commanders are to maintain their grip on power they will have to flex the military muscle.

The ruling party has been discredited among Algerian youths after the army suppressed anti-austerity riots in Algiers and other cities in 1988, which left at least 159 people dead. The support of the young is crucial for any political group since about 75 per cent of the population is under 30 years old.

Nepotism and corruption in government is widely blamed for the parlous state of the economy. Unemployment among youths leaving

national service is as high as 50 per cent.

For the young, the democratic process offered the only glimmer of hope for a way out of the economic abyss. Political commentators agree that many votes for the Islamic front were undoubtedly cast in anger against the ruling party rather than in direct support for an Islamic state.

Despite misgivings about the fundamentalists, the feeling on the streets of Algiers is that the democratic process should be allowed to proceed, with the door left open to vote out the fundamentalists if their rule proved unpalatable.

So far the reaction of the fundamentalist leadership is unclear. The Algerian press predicts that militant Muslims could react violently, especially if they feel that they were robbed of power.



Abdelmalek Benhabyles: new interim leader

Diplomat takes over in Algiers

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGIERS

PRESIDENT Chadli Bendjedid's resignation comes at a volatile time for Algeria. The country is in the middle of its first free general election and faces the prospect of an Islamic fundamentalist government. Mr Chadli's departure leaves the country without a head of state and without a parliament; the national assembly was dissolved a week ago.

The responsibilities of the head of state have been taken over by Algeria's highest judicial body, the constitutional council, led by Abdelmalek Benhabyles. As president of the council he was nominated by Mr Chadli.

A career diplomat, Mr Benhabyles is widely respected and regarded as independent. It will be his task to organise presidential elections which are supposed to be held within the next 45 days.

The political vacuum caused by Mr Chadli's retirement has been filled by the interim prime minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, who has taken control and ordered the army on to the streets after the president's resignation. Mr Ghazali was brought in by President Chadli last June, following bloody clashes on the streets of Algiers between the security forces and Islamic fundamentalists.

The riots led to the resignation of the ruling FLN and the appointment of an interim government, whose main task was to organise the general election. Though he belongs to the FLN, Mr Ghazali was considered to be beyond party politics. And one of the conditions of his appointment was that he would not stand in the election.

But his appointment caused rancour among some ranks of the FLN. Mr Ghazali's predecessor, Mouloud Hamrouche, was annoyed at being ousted from power. In the electoral campaign Mr Hamrouche emerged as the main FLN leader and he now has his eyes on the presidency.

He is seen as part of the old guard of the party, while Mr Ghazali is considered to belong to the progressive wing of the FLN. Since June, Mr Ghazali has abandoned the socialist doctrine of the FLN and overseen the imposition of an austerity programme dictated by the International Monetary Fund.

Attention is also focused on General Larbi Belkhir, the interior minister, who was appointed by Mr Chadli in November to ensure that the elections went ahead smoothly. General Belkhir will be responsible for the actions of the army.

President Chadli is widely credited as the architect of Algeria's multiparty system.

He was a late convert to democracy. He thought he could leave as his inheritance a stable multiparty system. Instead Algeria's democratic experiment appears to be floundering and Mr Chadli has jumped ship.

Elections doubt, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Archer angers Kurdish leaders

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN SALAHUDDIN

JEFFREY Archer left the Kurdish areas of Iraq for home at the weekend determined to promote the Kurdish cause and apparently untroubled by the surreal impression he made during his lightning tour of the area.

One minute he was giving peremptory orders to baffled Kurdish commanders, the next confusing one Kurdish leader with another. The Kurds called him, variously, Mr Archie, Sir Archer and Sir Giffey. He was mobbed everywhere he went, and Kurdish audiences listened enthusiastically to his promises to exert influence on the British prime minister and the secretary-general of the United Nations to have Baghdad's economic blockade lifted.

The fact is, however, that Kurdish leaders remain sceptical that the West has any such intention. Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said at his headquarters at Salahuddin: "They could force open the blockade any time they want."

Mr Archer's Simple Truth appeal helped raise £57 million, much of which has not reached its intended recipients. At a reception given for him in Salahuddin, however, Mr Archer sidestepped the question of where the money had gone, declaring that his next aim was to get the Kurds the \$1.7 billion (£940 million) they were entitled to under UN resolutions on the Gulf war.

Dr Mahmoud Osman, leader of the Kurdistan socialist party, disapproved strongly of the lavish Kurdish hospitality laid on for Mr Archer.

Mr Archer appears to have left a series of exasperated leaders in his wake. "He pulled the hair of the head of the Kurdistan Front in Irbil — in our country this is not considered a joke," one member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said.

But the people loved him. In Sulaymaniyah, Kurdish banners greeted "Sir Giffey". In response, Mr Archer went even further in demanding Kurdish independence than do the Kurds' own leaders. Mr Barzani, for example, is concerned not to portray Kurdish demands as secessionist.



Stating their case: Three of the 12 Palestinians Israel wants to deport under military guard at Israel's high court yesterday. The court accepted their appeal against an earlier ruling by a military court and their deportation hearings will now be open to the public.

Bush homes in on work

As America is losing interest in foreign affairs, George Bush is desperate to prove that he is a domestic president, with jobs on his mind. Peter Stothard writes from Washington

The White House has worked fast to justify last week's Tokyo fiasco to its all-important constituency of Washington pundits, political consultants and pollsters. The "Jobs-R-Us" tour, aides say, began the most important presidential task of the year — that of rectifying the perception that George Bush cares only for foreign policy and not for American jobs.

"There are plenty of Americans who would love the opportunity to chuck up on a Japanese prime minister's pant-leg," said one Republican adviser, only partly in jest. The only poll that matters, he added, is the one next November, by which time Mr Bush will be fully established as a "domestic president" and Kiuchi Miyazawa's trousers will be remembered only by his dry-cleaners.

It is a good try. And it may turn out to reflect the political reality better than the insults that met the president's party when he arrived back at Andrews Air Force base on Friday. Without further evidence of medical weakness, it seems unlikely that a flu attack will dominate the political year. If White House aides

needed a lesson on the decaying powers of time, they need only join the American media this week. Television viewers are looking back 12 months to when the Gulf war coalition defeated President Saddam Hussein, made America feel good about itself and made nine out of ten voters feel good about Mr Bush.

This week, as the pundits revisit the political triumph that Desert Storm brought the president back home, only five out of ten Americans think that the president is doing a good job. That is not because Saddam is still at large, but because too many Americans do not have a job.

President Bush is still admired for his war leadership. The war will still be an election issue and it will benefit the White House. But Mr Bush is now being blamed for unemployment. When the president is down on his luck, those who never liked his conduct of foreign affairs can more

freely criticise him without being considered unpatriotic, or even worse, politically unfashionable.

That is what is happening this week, and linked to the Tokyo failures, it is creating a sense of presidential weakness which is as illusory as his previous 90 per cent poll strength. The Middle East peace talks are now seen as stalled. The fact that without Desert Storm they would not be taking place at all is temporarily forgotten.

Mikhail Gorbachev is now gone from power. Mr Bush's long encouragement of the former Soviet leader is now an object of derision.

The outcome of events in the former Soviet Union is mostly what America wanted. Would it have been better sooner if Mr Bush had led a freedom crusade around Soviet Central Asia six months ago? Possibly. More likely, not.

The dangers of excessive nationalism still need to be

heeded. By next November, Mr Bush may seem more prophet than appeaser.

The Middle East position is less clear — with a high price likely to be paid for excessive White House pressure on Israel. Mr Bush seems determined, however, to put foreign policy first. He is a pragmatist with a mostly down-to-earth perception of how little he can do to create the new world order of which he once liked to speak. The Gulf war, like a grand wedding party, produced temporarily exaggerated expectations. The fizz has now gone out of foreign affairs: it is good for the president that flat reality has set in now rather than later.

It is the adjustment that is most damaging politically, not the reality itself. President Bush is still most likely to be re-elected in nine months' time by persuading voters that he can boost jobs at home and stability abroad. It is dreary truth but no less true for that. If anyone is to defeat him, it will be by the start of their campaign.

Bush collapse, page 1

Iraq to mark its 'victory'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

IRAQ is planning elaborate celebrations to mark this week's anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf war, which is being portrayed as a victory over "tyrannical aggression".

Defiant Iraqi officials say that the accent of the celebrations will be glory. They cite the poor condition of the American economy, the forthcoming US election and President Bush's collapse in Japan to back their claim that President Saddam Hussein will outlast him as leader.

At 2.30am on January 17, the moment last year when the first cruise missiles and bombs crashed on to Baghdad, groups of painters will begin "mother of all banquets" murals. Baath party militants will chant anti-US slogans and poets will recite martial verses.

"We have nothing to be sorry about," Saddam told tribal leaders as plans were finalised. "I never doubted, even for a moment, that we emerged triumphant from the war." Events are planned on 42 days, reflecting the length of last year's hostilities.

The apparently inflexible Israeli position — given that its team kept Arab delegates waiting a week at last month's talks — may be partly due to the increasingly unstable state of Mr Shamir's coalition.

In spite of the prospects of having only three or four days of meetings in the US State Department building, the Israeli negotiators and their Palestinian counterparts appeared confident at the weekend that nagging procedural problems, which have so far restricted contacts to "corridor diplomacy", will this time be quickly overcome.

However, once the two sides are ready to discuss issues of substance, such as Israel's autonomy plan for Palestinians in the occupied territories and Palestinian demands for an independent Palestinian state, Mr Shamir can expect to run into problems at home from Tehiya and Moledet, the two tiny ultra-nationalist parties in his coalition government whose five Knesset members hold the balance of power in parliament.

David Levy, the foreign minister, predicted yesterday that Israel would establish full diplomatic relations with China later this month when he makes a five-day official visit to Peking.

Hal, herald of superchips with everything

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

ONE of the longest and most poignant death scenes in film history was in 2001: A Space Odyssey. The star won an Oscar, though he was not even human. "I'm afraid... I'm afraid... Good afternoon, gentlemen. I am a Hal 9000 computer," burred the central character in Stanley Kubrick's film as it reverted to infancy in its final throes somewhere near Jupiter. "I became operational at the HAL labs in Urbana, Illinois, on the 12th of January, 1992. My instructor was Mr Langley and he taught me to sing a song... It's called Daisy."

The day of Hal's birth came yesterday, prompting reflection around the United States on how much Arthur C. Clarke, the author of 2001,

got it both right and wrong in 1968 when he invented the character of the petulant super-computer who boasted of his error-free record, ran amok and took over the spaceship Discovery as it was nearing a rendezvous with an alien sentinel near Jupiter. He killed all the crew bar the astronaut who managed to switch him off.

In 1968, when the computer revolution was starting, it seemed plausible that such an urbane, sentient machine could be just around the corner. But equipping a computer with true intelligence has proven much tougher than Mr Clarke imagined. "We've missed the deadline a little bit," conceded Larry Smarr, the head of the National Supercomputing Applica-

tions Centre. By sheer coincidence, the centre is based in Urbana, a place Mr Clarke



Kubrick: presence is hailed by scientists

chose out of pure whimsy. The big difference between Hal and existing computers was that Hal could decide on things to do that he was not programmed to do, said the experts in artificial intelligence. Mr Clarke said he only made one mistake, in timing. "Things have been slowed down greatly by the Vietnam war and all the problems like the Challenger and Galileo [the Jupiter-bound probe whose antenna is stuck] and the Hubble space telescope," he said from his home in Sri Lanka. "So the things we showed in 2001 won't happen until 2020 or '30 maybe."

Mr Clarke said he thought at the time that the most implausible aspect of Hal was his ability to read the lips of

astronauts who plotted to pull the plug to stop him. Such a machine has already been invented.

But scientists, sci-fi buffs and film critics have been hailing the presence of Mr Kubrick and Mr Clarke in predicting the potential for mischief in the new technology, a capacity now well-known in America where rogue computers in the past have wrought havoc, jamming millions of telephone circuits, shutting down power stations and paralysing air traffic control.

Hal's birthday celebrations were only a little marred by Mr Clarke's insistence at the weekend that in his screenplay he originally wrote 1997 but the film-makers changed it to 1992.

Metro falls victim to graffiti vandals

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

TRANSPORT officials stood in the Louvre metro station yesterday and shook their heads in dismay. The replica statues and paintings, glass cases and delicate relief brickwork which adorn the platform were covered in multi-coloured graffiti.

Vandals had needed just 15 minutes to spray everything in their reach with four "tags", or signatures. Having set off an alarm, they fled.

Louvre-Rivoli, the nearest metro to the Louvre museum, is the pride of the RATP, the Paris transport authority. Decorated and lit with painstaking care, it breathes a little culture into the rush hour crush and whets the appetite

of the tourist, Christian Kozar, director of safety and the environment for the RATP, said the vandalism made him feel sick in the stomach. And, in a reference to Jack Lang, the culture minister, said the vandals had been "encouraged by certain people who legitimise their activities". Mr Lang has organised several exhibitions of "tag art".

The RATP launched a campaign against "taggers" in 1991. Although more than £7 million has been spent, progress has been slight. "It's just impossible to watch over 300 stations in the Paris region 24 hours a day," one official said.

Kiev wins Russian concession in warships dispute

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

RUSSIA and Ukraine are to start formal talks on the division of the Black Sea fleet under an agreement reached at the weekend. The talks are expected to begin in a week, and the two republics will also discuss meeting their obligations under arms control agreements signed by the former Soviet Union but not ratified before the resignation of President Gorbachev.

The agreement to discuss a division of the Black Sea fleet is at least a partial victory for Ukraine because it comes after statements by President Yeltsin of Russia and others

that the fleet should on no account be divided. This victory may, however, have been bought at a high long-term cost to Ukraine, which seems to have agreed that the conventional forces it has won could be subject to cuts under the East-West treaty on reduction of conventional forces in Europe.

The agreement on the fleet was outlined in a communiqué late on Saturday night after a day of talks in Kiev. The communiqué said that the talks had covered "military-political questions", in the framework of earlier

Commonwealth agreements on strategic and conventional forces, but its convoluted language, together with the provisions for immediate talks at specialist level, indicated that there were serious disagreements.

That Russia has conceded Ukraine's right at least to a part of the Black Sea fleet has to be deduced from a sentence saying that the "forces deployed on Ukrainian territory comprise the group of strategic Commonwealth [of Independent States] forces, excluding that part of the forces of the Black Sea fleet which will become part of the Ukrainian armed forces, and other Ukrainian forces, including those which will be subject to reduction, restructuring or withdrawal under obligations proceeding from the treaty on conventional weapons in Europe".

The communiqué said that experts would spend a week preparing more detailed proposals on "military-political" questions. Until their work was complete, it added, "the sides agreed to refrain from any unilateral action".

Ukraine wants the fleet to form the basis of the Ukrainian navy, while Russia contends that it is of strategic importance and should remain under single commonwealth command. Western estimates put the composition of the Black Sea fleet at between 70,000 and 90,000 men and 300 ships.

Towards the end of last week, Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, the commander of the former Soviet — now commonwealth — navy, said there was no reason why Ukraine should not have its own fleet for local purposes, such as guarding its maritime border and preventing smuggling. Saturday's provisional agreement, however, suggests that Ukraine will obtain more than this.

Russia is trying to clarify the meaning of a draft Russian decree on control of the Commonwealth armed forces which was leaked to the *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* at the weekend. According to the newspaper, the decree would place all forces, nuclear and conventional, throughout the former Soviet Union under Russian command for an interim period, thereby making Russia the military as well as the political successor to the Soviet Union.

Prices protest, page 1

West to increase arms pressure

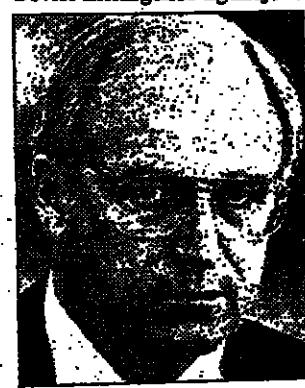
By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN governments are to step up their efforts to persuade the republics of the former Soviet Union in possession of nuclear arms to prevent the transfer of nuclear technology and personnel to Third World countries engaged in clandestine atomic weapons programmes.

At the end of this week, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will be visiting Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Russia. One of the subjects he wants to discuss is a priority with republic leaders is Western concern over a potential black market in nuclear weapons and knowledge. The threat of chemical and biological weapons technology reaching the wrong hands from former Soviet Union will also be raised.

Despite a pessimistic comment from Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, on a visit to London last week — "that there was little the West could do to stop the leakage of nuclear weapons technology and personnel from the former Soviet Union" — the potential threat is considered so alarming that every persuasive tactic is to be used to prevent countries such as Libya and Iraq benefiting.

The West wants to be involved in helping the former Soviet Union dismantle its nuclear missiles and to assist in setting up a strong legislative regime for banning the export of sensitive technology. The difficulty is that the lead-



Cheney: pessimistic about nuclear spread

combat international terrorism and drugs trafficking could be expanded to include joint action to prevent the movement of former Soviet nuclear scientists to Third World countries.

Major meeting: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the new United Nations secretary-general, will meet John Major, Mr Hurd and other government ministers in London today. He is on his first trip abroad since taking over at the UN at the beginning of the year.

Germany cuts defence budget

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BONN

GERMANY will cut its planned defence spending by more than one-third over the next 13 years, and reduce much of its inventory of heavy military equipment, Gerhard Stoltenberg, the defence minister, has announced.

After a meeting of leaders of the Bundestag, Herr Stoltenberg said that military spending from next year to 2005 was expected to total 117 billion marks (£41 billion). That represents a decrease of 43.7 billion marks, or about 35 per cent, in planned defence spending.

Herr Stoltenberg said on Saturday that the planned cuts and military realignments reflected changing world security in the post-Cold War era, as Germany's own budgetary constraints.

Most likely to be affected will be plans for transport planes, tanks, heavy artillery, ships and hardware for the German air force, the defence minister said. Plans to spend 20.7 billion marks on new battle tanks, anti-mine systems and upgrading armoured helicopters were axed. He said that, while the

air force would need a new fighter after 2000, plans to go ahead with the European Jaeger 90 were being held back.

The defence minister said another 23 billion marks would be saved by closing down some facilities. Herr Stoltenberg said that the planned changes would make the German military more mobile and enable it to participate in rapid deployment forces. To do that, however, Germany would have to abolish its constitutional restrictions on military involvement outside the Nato area.



Cheek by jowl: Miss Germany, Ines Kuba, planting a kiss on Hans-Dietrich Genscher, aged 64, the German foreign minister, during a late-night press party in Berlin at the weekend

Jews still blamed

FROM PATRICK MOSER IN BONN

FIFTY years after the Nazis decided upon the "final solution" that led to the Holocaust at a conference in Berlin, 32 per cent of Germans believe Jews carry part of the blame for their persecution and 42 per cent believe that the Third Reich had both its good and its bad sides.

Among Israelis, Germans are as unpopular as Palestinians. Two surveys, carried out respectively by the Emnid Institute of Germany and the Gallup Institute of Israel, also show that 43 per cent of Israelis and 5 per cent of Germans believe that most Germans "are against Jews".

Der Spiegel magazine published the surveys to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wannsee conference in 1942, where Nazi leaders adopted their programme for the extermination of Jews. Of the 3,000 Germans interviewed by Emnid, 42 per cent said they believed only a minority of Germans knew at the time about the Holocaust, in which six million Jews died.

When asked which Germans had to carry the burden of guilt for the Holocaust, 32 per cent chose the answer "only those at the time", while 45 per cent felt it was "only the Germans who participated in the persecution". Forty-two per cent said Germans today had no special responsibility towards Jews. Gallup asked 1,000 Israelis to rate their sympathies for Germans, and others on a scale of +5 to -5. Palestinians and Germans both got an average rating of -1.6, compared with +0.9 for Russians and +2.9 for Americans.

Chance find, page 3

Lithuania marks killings anniversary

Baltic states prepare for troops showdown

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

LITHUANIANS are commemorating the killing a year ago of 14 compatriots by Soviet troops, an event which played a key part in discrediting Mikhail Gorbachev and hastening the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, the Icelandic foreign minister, paraphrased Churchill in telling the Lithuanian parliament yesterday: "Never in the history of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few."

The commemoration yesterday and today comes when the three Baltic states are facing increasing problems from the presence of Soviet troops and the cessation of vital supplies from the former Soviet Union. On Friday, Lithuanian border guards fired in the air to stop a Soviet military convoy crossing from Lithuania into the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, an incident described by Tass as in breach of a Lithuanian-Russian treaty guaranteeing free Russian access to Kaliningrad.

A potentially serious confrontation also loomed in Estonia after a decision by the government to cut off supplies of cereals to Soviet troops in the republic.

Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, told the Lithuanian parliament yesterday that the events of last January showed that "the strong are not those who strike, but those who withstand". Anatolij Gorbunov, the Latvian leader, said that, by the sacrifice of their lives, "the Lithuanians saved not just Lithuania, but Latvia and even Russia as well".

Gediminas Vagnorius, the

that of stabilisation.

• Ties improve: Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish foreign minister, arrived in Vilnius to sign a joint declaration with the Lithuanian government.

What is effectively a Polish climbdown followed several months of Polish-Lithuanian tension over the treatment of the Polish minority by the authorities in Lithuania.

Zhelev looks in line for Bulgaria victory

FROM ROGER BOYES IN SOFIA

ZHELYU Zhelev, the dissident philosopher and incumbent head of state, was yesterday the clear favourite to win as millions of Bulgarians went to the polls in the country's first free presidential elections.

The president, aged 56, was the leader of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces and was chosen as head of state by parliament in August 1990 after communist rule began to crack. If the president secures nationwide backing he may be able to bridge some of the differences between the reformist parties and keep alive the consensus for swift market change.

But his chief rival, Velko Vulkanov, a lawyer aged 64, seemed yesterday to be picking up many votes in the countryside. Although he is not a party member, he is backed by the former Communists (now named Social-



Winning smile: Zhelev after voting yesterday

ists) who have helped to organise campaign. His ultra-nationalist slogans, playing on anti-Turkish sentiment, have attracted people in the provinces.

To win outright, President Zhelev needs over half the vote. The indications yesterday were that he would easily secure this in the cities, but would only just squeeze ahead in the provinces.

Georgia leader 'to be moved'

London: Armenia has agreed to move Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted Georgian president, away from the border between the two former Soviet republics, Russian television reported yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Tengiz Sigua, the acting Georgian prime minister, said in Tbilisi that he had asked Armenia to move Mr Gamsakhurdia closer to the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

About 5,000 supporters of Mr Gamsakhurdia protested in Tbilisi demanding his return. The crowd was swollen by demonstrators from western Georgia, where the fugitive president still enjoys considerable support.

Mr Gamsakhurdia, his family, and an entourage including several dozen armed bodyguards, fled last week to the small Armenian border town of Idjevan, about 50 miles south of Tbilisi.

Although armed soldiers are still checking documents on the streets of Tbilisi, newspapers have resumed publishing and television broadcasts are being shown.

American role

Moscow: Sepukh Tashchyan has become the second American in the Armenian government, having been named energy minister by President Ter-Petrosian. Rafi Ovanesian, the foreign minister, is also American. (AFP)

Volga cash

Bonn: Germany said it would spend 200 million marks (£70 million) this year on helping persuade ethnic Germans to stay in Russia. Half the sum will go to a planned autonomous German republic on the Volga. (Reuters)

Dichards rally

Berlin: Tens of thousands of diehard communists rallied at the graves of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, two activists who were murdered in 1919 for trying to convert Germany to socialism after the first world war. (AP)

Drug arrests

Naples: Police arrested 51 people and broke up a drugs ring peddling a new kind of "crack" in the largest raid in Naples in almost 20 years. Officers put the traffic in the "totarelli" drug at about £5 million a year. (AFP)

Sinking fear

Oslo: A stricken Panamanian cargo ship, the 75,352-tonne Arisan loaded with iron ore, was in danger of sinking off western Norway after it ran aground in a storm. A helicopter rescued its crew of 23. (Reuters)

Airport fracas

Frankfurt: Six Pakistani passengers were wounded, one seriously, in an attack at Frankfurt airport by about 20 men, also believed to be Pakistani, with knives, luggage and umbrellas. One attacker was arrested. (AP)

Private spies

Madrid: A Spaniard was sent for trial and six others were under arrest after investigation of computer pirates who built up a data bank with more information on half of Spain's population than any government department.

Belgrade denies army coup rumours

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

GENERAL Blagoje Adzic, Yugoslavia's acting minister of defence, moved over the weekend to quash speculation that any form of coup had taken place within the army or that hardliners determined to wreck the United Nations peace plan were now in control. "The army will not impose political solutions," he said. "Such speculations are tendentious and are ill-intentioned insinuations aimed at discrediting the Yugoslav army and its command."

General Adzic, the chief of the general staff, began to act as minister of defence following the resignation of Veljko Kadijevic last Wednesday, 3 days after the Yugoslav air force shot down an EC helicopter killing five ceasefire monitors.

The weekend statement committing the military to the United Nations peace plan is highly significant as General Adzic has always been considered a leader of the military's hardliners opposed to any peaceful settlement with Croatia. General Adzic's whole extended family of 60 people was murdered

by Croatian fascists during the war and during the Croatian and Slovene conflicts he has distinguished himself by his apocalyptic and uncompromising statements.

"Let's give peace a chance," he said at the weekend. Last year he pledged to unleash "massive destructive forces" on Croatia and Slovenia and stamp out "traitors".

As Yugoslavia's fifteenth ceasefire holds and the military reiterates its commitment to it, one of the best known Serbian militia leaders, known as Arkan, threatened that recognition of Croatia by the EC on Wednesday would mean that "for us the war begins". While under the terms of the UN plan the Yugoslav army was set to withdraw from Croatia his men would be the last because "we expect an enemy attack".

Arkan's men have been prominent in the siege of the eastern Croatian town of Osijek. The Yugoslav army has pledged that it will disarm all militia groups and despite Arkan's bravado it is noticeable that his men have, so far,



Family at war: a Croatian soldier in Zagreb with his wife and son before returning to the front

kept the truce.

As the EC's decision on recognition for Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia approaches, the silence of the Serbian

government implies acceptance that there is little that it can now do to fend off the inevitable, at least in the case of the first two. However, the continuing war of words with

the leadership of the Serbs in Croatia and the silence following the announcement that Serbs in Bosnia were founding their own republic now implies a desire to tread cautiously and try and salvage as much as possible of the old Yugoslavia.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday Alija Izetbegovic, the president, announced plans for a new Yugoslav or Balkan community and in Macedonia the republic's large Albanian minority voted on autonomy.

• Budapest: Further efforts to consolidate the ceasefire in Croatia before the start of the UN peacekeeping mission in the region gathered pace at the weekend as representatives from Croatia, Serbia, the Yugoslav federal army and the European Community met in Hungary to work out confidence-building measures (Ernest Beck writes).

After six hours of talks in Pecs, all sides agreed to set up permanent military representatives' offices in the Serbian and Croatian capitals to facilitate communications and the exchange of information.

Croatia in Olympics, page 34

Hawk turned dove fails to allay Croat fears

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN ZAGREB

GENERAL Veljko Kadijevic's resignation as Yugoslavia's defence minister last week, in the wake of the shooting-down of EC helicopters, signalled the end of decades of dominance of the military by second world war veterans.

General Kadijevic was the last of the generation who won their spurs in the Partisan struggles and who helped Tito to forge Yugoslavia on the principle of identity between the army and the state. But Tito's death, the independence movements in Slovenia and Croatia and the nationalism of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, have rendered the federal army increasingly uncertain of its role. Now, with the disintegration of the federation irreversible, the case is no longer that of a state lent security and stature by its army, but of an army in search of a state large enough to support it.

That task belongs to the postwar generation of officers, such as General Blagoje

Adzic, the former hardline chief of staff who is General Kadijevic's interim successor. At the weekend, General Adzic declared his commitment to stopping the fighting and publicly embraced the arrival of United Nations troops. But his sudden transition from hawk to dove occasions scepticism in Croatia and in opposition circles in Serbia.

The federal army is not over-endowed with charm. Even by its modest standards, however, General Adzic is an unprepossessing man. He was behind the army's main attacks on Dubrovnik and Vukovar. He is thought to have been responsible for ordering troops on to the streets of Belgrade to quell the student demonstrations there last March. A Serb from the Croat-dominated Herzegovina region, General Adzic claims he watched his entire family killed by the Croat Ustasha while he hid in the branches of a tree.

Perversely, his hardline reputation may be a good thing for the tentative peace process beginning in Yugoslavia. The more aggressive army commanders regard him as their man and are less likely to flout his orders than those of his predecessor.

How faithful the army remains to a peaceful solution depends less on provocations from the Croatian forces than on its relations with its paymaster, the Serbian leadership. Up to now, the two have had the same interests for different reasons, but it is a marriage of convenience showing signs of strain.

However, the deployment of UN troops is welcome to both. The army knows that a shortage of reservists, low morale and rising competence on the Croatian side make it impossible to carry on winning for much longer. From Belgrade's point of view the stationing of UN troops inside Croatia confirms the army's gains.

How Serbia and the federal army will co-exist after the war is less easy to imagine.

CINEMA

Shooting stars and their wishes

Kevin Costner, Barbra Streisand and Jodie Foster are recent examples of film actors taking over as directors. Geoff Brown hopes they have learned from past experiments of this kind

You know what film directors do. They wear puttees and riding boots. They fire people. They sit in a chair with their names on the back, and they shout "Action!" But what if the director is also performing? How can he give the firing shot? How can he bark "Terrible!" or "Print it!" when he or she is too busy acting to watch?

Times are hard for the film director's mythical image. More than any other, this is the age of the actor-director. Friday sees the British release of *Little Man Tate*: Jodie Foster stars and directs. In *The Prince of Tides*, released next month, Barbra Streisand performs an identical feat, as she did nine years ago in *Yankee*.

Last year saw the directing debuts of Dan Aykroyd, Sean Penn and Mario Van Peebles. Nobody needs reminding about Kevin Costner, who fought in the American Civil War, became a surrogate Sioux Indian, danced with wolves, and looked through a viewfinder at the same time.

Actors are not alone in the sudden stampede to the director's chair. "If you can drive a car, you can direct a movie," John Landis remarked, provocatively, in 1990. Hollywood seems to agree: the trade paper *Variety* estimated that a quarter of all American films released that year had directors with L plates at the wheel. They came from film schools and successful careers in commercials and video; they were writers, camera-men, choreographers, special effects experts. Last year's figures have yet to be computed, but the trend is clearly continuing, with mixed results. Costner, the learner driver of *Dances With Wolves*, may have won the Grand Prix; but Dan Aykroyd, in *Nothing But Trouble*, caused the cinematic equivalent of an M25 pile-up.

Cost is one important factor in the rise of the fledgling director. Any director flying high — a Scorsese or an Oliver Stone — generally expects a high-flying fee, which can cripple a medium-budget film: while the veteran craftsman who came to movies in the Forties or Fifties are being elbowed out by changes in taste. Someone young and inexperienced, the theory goes, has the pulse of the times; he is also cheap.

Actors, however, are a different case. During the Hollywood system's heyday, stars starred, and directors directed: only in very isolated cases — Chaplin, for instance, or the maverick Orson Welles — were the two jobs fused. The key to the current crop of debutants perhaps lies with Sylvester Stallone, who zoomed up from oblivion in 1976 as the star and writer of *Rocky*. Hollywood needed him badly: the town was dying for a new man with muscles and charisma. Stallone had both, plus ambition, and with *Rocky* a vast hit, he could exercise power.

A deal was hammered out to write, star and direct. The first result was *Paradise Alley* (1978), an old-fashioned, endearing saga

'For every actor who graduates successfully, six others take the megaphone and run, never to return'

of Bronx wrestlers in the Forties clamouring for bright lights. Then came three *Rocky* sequels — each more threadbare than the one before, though none could doubt Stallone's ability to milk a formula to the last drop. Through a combination of *chutzpah*, one raging success and a bullish agent, Stallone blazed a trail that proved difficult for other ambitious actors to ignore.

Another path to the director's chair involves forming your own production company. For a long time, this was the Hollywood actor's best means of preserving power once the studio system began to wobble in the post-war period. Burt Lancaster joined forces with the producer Harold Hecht as early as 1947. John Wayne formed Batjac in 1952; three years later, Kirk Douglas controlled his own outfit, Bryna Productions. They all exercised a producer's powers, and in time had

their fling in the director's chair. Fling seems the operative word. For every actor who graduates successfully, such as Woody Allen, Clint Eastwood or Richard Benjamin, six other actors take the megaphone and run, never to return. Lillian Gish's experiences 70 years ago have remained the norm. "After my experience with *Remodelling Her Husband*," she wrote, "I was cured of any desire to make films." Bob Hoskins, director of the strange gypsy drama *The Raggedy Rawney*, phrased the matter more piquantly: "It's like being pecked to death by a thousand pigeons."

"Everybody's got questions," he explained when his film was presented at Cannes in 1988: "You get out of the car in the morning. All you want is a bacon sandwich and there they are. 'What do you want me to do about this? How are we going to do that?' For a performer — accustomed to disturbing the director's own breakfast — such decisions can be painful: one recent star actor could only direct after a morning session with his psychiatrist."

Once the pigeon pecks are done with, however, the end results of an actor-director's labours may be awkward, shapeless and over-indulgent but they are rarely dull. If a performer follows the narcissist's route and directs himself, lingering shots and admiring close-ups of the star tend to proliferate. For *Dances With Wolves*, Kevin Costner awarded himself an invisible halo. In *The Prince of Tides*, Barbra Streisand takes revenge on the male directors who made her look an ugly duck by treating her character, a New York psychiatrist, to the most flattering photography and fashions. All this is only natural. Any writer-turned-director will pile on the words: any cameraman at the helm will do his damndest to paint with light.

If the director shows restraint and casts someone else in the lead, performances can still be styled in his own image. Watching Sean Penn's *The Indian Runner* — the lugubrious tale of two brothers, one good, one bad — it is hard to shake off Penn's surly features, though the bad brother is played by Viggo Mortensen. Jodie Foster's confident debut, *Little*



A doubly singular model: Charles Laughton's only film as director, *The Night of the Hunter*, had Robert Mitchum as a psychotic preacher, seen here with one of the children he menaces

Man Tate, displays another variation in the pattern. She casts herself in a familiar, understanding role (street-smart, working-class): the film's interest derives instead from the material's relation to her own life. *Little Man Tate* is a seven-year-old prodigy. Little Girl Foster made her screen debut at three, and her brains took her to Yale University.

Some actors' films are exceedingly well-behaved: look at Robert Redford's *Ordinary People*, or the occasional ventures of Paul Newman. But the most interesting contain quirks that would never occur to a journeyman director. Marlon Brando drove his studio bosses crazy over *One-Eyed Jacks* — "I'm shooting a movie, not a schedule," he would snap — but

still contrived a unique psychological Western. John Cassavetes fulfilled *Shadows*, *Faces* and his other films with a nervous energy derived from improvisation. Robert Montgomery — one of the first of the post-war breed — relayed Raymond Chandler's *Lady in the Lake* in 1946 through intriguing subjective photography: apart from bridging scenes, you only glimpsed Philip Marlowe if he happened to brush by a mirror.

But the most singular example of an actor-director at work remains Charles Laughton. He was no stranger to production when he made *The Night of the Hunter* in 1955: some 20 years before, he had formed his Mayflower company in Britain. Yet the film's visual sophis-

tication still leaves one breathless. Where did they come from, these mad, magic images of fleeing children, a psychotic preacher and the Ohio river? Stanley Cortez, a brilliant cameraman, obviously helped, so did James Agee's script. But Charles Laughton, the director with L plates, was the man at the wheel, guiding the shooting, heavily under the influence of silent cinema. For all aspiring Costners, though, Laughton stands as a warning as much as an inspiration: he never directed again.

ARTS REVIEWS

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BRIEFING

Art from industry

A NEW art gallery opens in London on Thursday, at an unlikely address in the Science Museum. "The form and texture of industrial landscapes and modern technology have inspired artists from Turner and Louthborough to Paolozzi, Gunee and Lumb," says Neil Cossons, the museum's director. The gallery will enable the museum's permanent collection of pictures to be exhibited, including its most famous items: Louthborough's 1801 masterpiece *Coalbrookdale by Night* and Lowry's 1922 *An Industrial Town*. These will also be temporary shows, beginning on Thursday, with paintings by the present-day "industrial heritage" artist, Edna Lumb.

All for youth

COVENT Garden's opera season has not exactly been full of magical evenings thus far, so the glittering assembly of vocal talent planned for February 16 should prove especially attractive. It includes Thomas Allen, Willmina Fernandez, Jerry Hadley, Rosalind Plowright, Carol Vaness and Sarah Walker. But the evening has nothing to do with the Royal Opera: it is a fund-raising galaconcert for British Youth Opera, the organisation founded four years ago to give young professional singers a platform. BYO's president, the bass Robert Lloyd, will be hoping that the gala goes some way towards compensating for lack of subsidy: no more than 4 per cent of BYO's income comes from public grants.

Last chance

STATUS QUO's only titled "Rock 'n' Roll Op": UK tour was publicised last September with a booze marathon — four area shows staged at Sheffield, Glasgow, Birmingham and London within 12 hours — a sufficiently foolish endeavour to earn the group an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. For the tour, itself, which began in November, the boys have stuck faithfully to the nonsense, three-chord, head-banging routine which will surely see them brought to pensionable age, the end of the road for this year beckons at Plymouth Pavilion (0752 229922) tonight and comes tomorrow at Bill Bournemouth (0202 29737).

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Joanna to the rescue

The last four months of 1991 was an uneasy time for BBC 1, in which falling audience share was linked to criticism that the channel had lost its touch. That was too glib a judgment given that, to take Sunday nights as an example, much depended upon *Trainer*, which was at peak time, and *Trainer* never got over the first fence. January brought a new season and an altogether stronger Sunday night. The return of *Allo, Allo* and *Lovejoy* is followed by the new Bob Larbey comedy *As Time Goes By* and, for three weeks, Melvyn Bragg's *A Time to Dance*.

TV looks fairly bleak alongside that line-up, although anchoring the evening with two hours of *Poirot* is easy-option scheduling that could still keep the commercial channel in front.

If that happens, the BBC should make it clearer than it has so far that numbers are only part of the game. I like *Lovejoy*, a series in which Ian McShane plays the eponymous leading role as an antiquities dealer. Antiques matter to the series to about the same extent as pensioners mattered to Robert Maxwell. The nature of *Lovejoy's* business is simply a vehicle for the story, which usually manages to be entertaining if not entirely plausible.

What *Lovejoy* has lacked in the past has been a bona fide love interest. Any series producer faced with this problem can do worse than look in his address book under L for Lumley, one of the more delicious among missing ingredients.

The eyes met early in last night's opening episode (a disappointingly corny device) and clearly *Lovejoy* and Victoria, the Joanna Lumley character, are about to enjoy a meaningful relationship. I hope its gestation will be shorter than that of other television romances, such as the *Gold Blend* commercial, certainly (under the eye of series creator Ian La Frenais) it will be less tackily written. Last night's episode concerned a ring that once belonged to an Inca king, a crooked Brazilian banker who was a guest at Windsor Castle and the kidnapping of *Lovejoy's* business partner, the marvellously stiff-tipped Lady Jane, played by Phyllis Logan. "South American terrorists in rural England!" *Lovejoy* said incredulously near the beginning, a sure sign that South American



Victoria (Joanna Lumley) and Lovejoy (Ian McShane)

terrorists were about to turn up in rural England. These days no pot's beyond belief, credibility hanging entirely by a thread that is in the hands of the writer. *Lovejoy's* groans under the weight from time to time, but the script and the characterisation hid it intact.

PETER BARNARD

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Berio and the bright young things

With a dozen more of the Park Lane Group Young Musicians, extravagantly gifted young soloists and ensembles, blowing, scraping, singing and dazzling away in the memory, the problem is where to start. Maybe with two incisively committed string players, the cellist Eva Boecker and the violinist Maya Iwabuchi, who chose adjacent works by Dallapiccola from the mid-Forties (just one example of the Park Lane Group's canny network planning of their series), and brought this inward, reluctant music to singing life.

Or maybe with Ron Spigelman, who kept up stamina and spin in tossing bright trumpet tones into a reverberant piano and out to the Purcell Room to create Berio's *Sequenza X*. Or maybe with the guitarist Steve Gibb, who pulled off an even greater feat of patience in getting through 20 minutes of virtuosic strumming on behalf of the next, and most recent, piece in Berio's cavalcade of exuberant ordeals.

It is encouraging to see, by the way, how Berio has replaced Hindemith as the staple of this annual series, which can now choose largely from music written during its

own lifetime of 36 years. There was more Berio from Fiona Cross, playing the haunting little *Lied* for clarinet, and from Garth Hall and Andrew Zolinsky, who shared between them the four elemental studies for piano, as they also shared the first four pieces from... in real time. Alexander Goehr's current cycle.

These are lovely, fantastical things, recreating the sweep and flow of Romantic piano music by precisely judged metrical modulation and harmonic ambiguity, painting by numbers, done with such sophistication that the numbers haze into the background and leave the luminous imagery. The only parallels are with recent Ligeti or with Debussy, and the fourth piece in the set is particularly captivating.

But no, first place must go to James Crabb for proving conclusively, right from his breathtaking entry from silence at the start of Arne Nordheim's *Flashing*, that the accordion is not after all an unfunny joke. It may not have much of a repertoire, but Crabb is the sort of player who can make a miracle of anything: he has the dexterity to make the accordion speak as rapidly as a harpsichord,

and he acts on his instrument with slicing exactness and conviction. One could dream of a Berio *Sequenza XII* for him, but meanwhile his talents have been given open range in Gordon McPherson's *Lame God*, commissioned for this occasion. It has lightning bursts of speed; it has the lame god doing a touching lame waltz; and it makes evocative use of toneless squeezes, suggesting the instrument in slow breathing while it rests. Hard to tell whether the structure may not be a bit ramshackle, as electric was every detail and every silence in the execution.

Another stunning performer was Jonathan Kenny, a counter-tenor whose career so far has been entirely in Baroque music, but who has great potential in conjuring wild shades. To a strong, surly voice he adds the stage presence, the mime skills and not a little of the look of John Sessions. Praelux Rainier, unaccompanied setting of extracts from Donne was boldly delivered as a challenge and a proclamation (it helps so much that he can do without the music), while in Sylvano Bussotti's *Lachrymae* he quite

transcended campness to achieve a moving portrayal of sexuality and disintegration: I cannot quite believe the piece was not written for him. 2 piece that was, Michael Finnis's *Two Movers*, took him into a calmer world, where one once has said surprisingly calm for this composer — of arching chant, supported by Steve Gibb's guitar.

But this leaves me with no more space for Andrew Zolinsky, who showed his brilliance not only in Berio and Goehr but also in a coruscating performance of Karen Tanaka's *Crystalline*, which otherwise one might have thought uninterestingly atomised Messiaen — just as he maintained concern for the crashing rhetoric of Paul Ruder's *Dante-Sonata*. Nor can I do more than mention Garth Hall's intricate, sparkling and careful path through a selection from Colin Matthews's *Studies in Velocity*, while the splendid Alfron Brass Consort, who sorted out the finicky intricacies of Benedict Mason's *Quintet* among their proud performances of more assertive music, must go without further record. Sorry folks.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Arthur Goldstuck on the lessons other artists must learn from Paul Simon's first performance in South Africa

Amid the sounds of violence

The banners outside Johannesburg's biggest stadium on Saturday afternoon were vintage political theatre: "Yankee go home"; "We will destroy the capitalists"; and "Paul Simon, friend of racists".

Inside the venue for the African leg of Simon's Born at the Right Time world tour, the only political message visible was the quixotic "Quasimodo for president". Fans paraded with giant posters bearing the face of Simon, the American conqueror of African music.

Between these two worlds stood the turnstiles of the Ellis Park rugby stadium, and the heaviest security presence yet seen at a cultural event in South Africa.

The operative mood was paranoia. But the demonstrators numbered no more than 50, and beyond singing resistance songs and dancing the toyi-toyi — an on-the-spot jogging-march associated with political protest — they did not so much as slow down passing traffic, let alone halt the concert.

For the audience this was a welcome anti-climax. The 40,000 present were predominantly white and affluent. While the cheapest tickets on the tour are at R40 (£8), inexpensive by international standards, their price is still high enough to preclude a large township contingent.

The threatened action by militants, which made headlines in the week leading up to the event, also seemed to scare off many black fans, whose daily lives are immersed in violence.

The extreme left Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) — respectively the second and third

largest of the liberation movements after the African National Congress (ANC) — had thrown their support behind any efforts to disrupt the six-concert tour.

Azapo's youth wing, the little-known Azanian Youth Organisation (AYO), which told Simon he was not welcome, exploited the

controversy to maximum effect.

When a hand grenade exploded outside the offices of the local promoters of the tour on Wednesday night, Azapo proclaimed that violence was a justifiable response to the tour and grabbed not only headlines, but also a lengthy meeting with Simon. The musician emerged to tell a press conference that the threat of violence was over.

But Simon has still to come to grips with the bewildering array of acronyms, let alone the differing political motives behind the actions of each player in the boycott game. Azapo promptly announced that it had given no guarantees about violence. It suggested Simon give additional concerts under the patronage of Azapo. As it dawned on Simon's management that the protests were not about maintaining the boycott — but rather about gaining political capital — it called a halt to the negotiations.

Simon could be forgiven for thinking he does not deserve all this acrimony. After all, musicians in South Africa regard him as the single most important factor in bringing the country's township rhythms to world prominence. He is a hero to both white nostalgia junkies and to younger converts, black and white, who regard the *Graceland* album as the high point of South African cultural history.

Before *Graceland*, few black



Under African skies: ticket prices put blacks in the minority among the 40,000 fans who attended the first of Paul Simon's concerts in his tour of South Africa

artists had ever been heard on white South African pop radio stations. In the wake of the album and worldwide tour, Ladysmith Black Mambazo became the first South African black group to be playlisted on white radio with a song in an ethnic language.

Foreign interest in South African music was inspired by *Graceland*, which also gave township rhythm a level of respectability it no longer had among the urbanised township people. In the 1970s and 1980s, most black acts leaned towards American funk and jazz fusion. Today that pendulum has swung back towards rhythms like mbaqanga and kwela (township jive and beat, respectively).

Classic albums in these genres, dating back to the 1950s and

1960s, are being reissued. Among others, Spokes Mashiyane, who popularised the penny whistle in Britain in the 1950s, has been given a posthumous comeback with the re-release of *King Kwela*, his 1958 album. The most obvious new beneficiary of the trend is Mango Groove, the kwela-pop dance band that brought a 2,000 crowd to its feet in the Hammer-smith Odeon last November.

Unintentionally, Simon also achieved a political breakthrough with *Graceland*. In 1985, he had come to South Africa in secret to put together a raw tape in a Johannesburg studio and was blacklisted for breaking the ban on international musicians working in South Africa.

But when the result — *Graceland* — was released, and when anti-apartheid artists such as Hugh Masekela and Miriam

Makeba rallied to his defence, the United Nations agreed that artists from South Africa would no longer be barred from performing outside their homeland. Simon was also "forgiven" for working in South Africa.

Masekela. Makeba. Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Ray Phiri. Barney Rachabane and Bakhili Khumalo were part of the musical who's who on the *Graceland* tour. Since then, Masekela and Makeba have come home from exile as elders of the musical tribe. Phiri has become a permanent fixture in Simon's band. Rachabane and Khumalo perform in South Africa in their own jazz bands. Ladysmith Black Mambazo has opened an institute to advance the cause of indigenous music.

All these artists, with the exception of Masekela, who is planning a groundbreaking show at Sun City, once the focus of the cultural boycott, joined Simon on stage at Ellis Park on Saturday. But somehow, it was not the same.

The audience lapped up the *Graceland* classics, but the first display of unbridled enthusiasm came for the mid-1970s hit, "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard", which had the audience clapping. It was clear that the audience were white middle-of-the-road music fans who related to the instant hits of pop radio.

This response, along with the political debacle, is likely to provide telling lessons for other artists planning to tour South Africa.

For one, if they wish to attract audiences that reflect their vision of a society based on equality, ticket prices will have to be pitched

so low that they will have to take enormous losses.

Harvey Goldsmith, the international pop concert promoter, accused the media of exaggerating the threat of violence and thus keeping potential fans away. But Simon himself gave the threats credence by spending almost a full day meeting the protesters.

Those artists who are willing to take a huge loss for the sake of making a statement — Sting, Peter Gabriel and Dire Straits have been mentioned in this context — will have to spend time and energy ensuring that all shades of opinion are solicited, and that no one opposes their tours.

This will require far more work than merely recording a hit album, and may well keep South African music-lovers in isolation long after the cultural boycott has ended.

Surviving on isolation row

A man, who wears only white cotton, is pegging out his post on the washing line. In a cracked voice he explains that he is "airing" the paper to get rid of the chemicals in the ink. "It takes several weeks before I feel comfortable working with them," he croaks.

From behind a thick glass window in a porcelain-lined trailer, sealed against airborne pollutants, a woman tells her teenage son what she wants for dinner. Nearby, another woman is so sensitive to indoor chemicals — from furniture, paint and solvents — that she always sleeps outside, even in winter.

These are the "canaries" of Wimberley, a bleak, windy town in Texas which has become a refuge for people with an extreme sensitivity to the modern world. Why canaries? Because, as a local resident chirpily observes, recalling the way miners used the birds to detect poisonous gases underground: "When the canaries stop singing, we know our world is bad."

Most viewers of tomorrow's 40 Minutes: When the Canaries Stop Singing on Wimberley's chemical refugees are likely to think the world is bad enough already for them. Caroline, now in her early thirties, was a marathon runner until the day, ten years ago, when she was sprayed with pesticide from an aircraft. Her weight fell to 65lb and she was in and out of hospital four times.

Held hostage by her illness, she then spent a year in a "strict" room — "I had nothing, not even a pencil and paper" — until her immune system strengthened enough for her to go out again.

The natural response to this grim story is a mixture of

Why a community in Texas has cut itself off from the 20th century



Aired mail: ink chemicals are dispersed in Wimberley

sympathy and awe. But it also raises an urgent question: might the treatment be worse than the disease? This film chooses not to answer, relying instead on the simple testimony of its tragic subjects. It reports, uncritically, their own assessments of their problems and the aggressive treatments they have chosen. In cutting themselves off from physical contamination, they sever their links with families and friends, with the past — and the future.

The notion of "environmental illness" — also known as "chemical hypersensitivity syndrome", "total allergy syndrome" and "20th-century disease" — has gained popularity amid growing concern about pollution. Clinical ecologists, who treat environmental illness, believe that some humans have failed to adapt to synthetic chemicals, resulting in new forms of sensitivity to them.

But conventional doctors

are sceptical. A Royal College of Physicians report, still in draft form, by Britain's leading allergy specialists on alternative treatments of allergy says there is "no good evidence" that environmental chemicals depress the immune system and "no unified theory" of clinical ecology.

Because of its controversial nature, the report is now out for consultation. Among those who hope to see a modification of its hostile stance is Dr Ronald Finn, a consultant physician with a special interest in environmental medicine at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Clinical ecologist, Dr Finn says, is about the interaction of people with the environment.

"Hayfever is an allergy to pollen, so you would think it would be more common in the country than in the town. It is the other way round. People in towns are damaging their noses with pollution, which allows the allergen in."

Put like this, it is hard to understand how the validity of environmental medicine could be denied. There is a consensus among conventional doctors that the worldwide increase in allergies may be linked to pollution.

So why the dispute? According to Dr Finn, it is a matter of focus. "Environmental medicine people are more interested in the chemical sensitivity, allergists in the allergy." A more important reason may be quick practices disguised as clinical

ecology. "It got a very bad name," he admits.

"Sometimes, people who have had a chemical overdose, such as being sprayed with pesticides, suffer damage to their immune systems. One way you can help is by taking them away somewhere where the air is pure. But it is a pretty major thing to take someone out of their environment for a few months and then return them to pick up the threads of their life. That is the worry — that the treatment becomes worse than the disease."

But Dr Gerald Ross of the Environmental Health Centre in Dallas appears to have few doubts about the benefits of life in a porcelain pod. Interviewed for the programme, he says: "If it is necessary to go into a restricted environment to reduce the total load of chemicals we all have to deal with every day — that's reasonable."

Dr Thomas Kurt, medical toxicologist for poison control at the University of Texas South Western Medical Centre, takes a different view. He was not interviewed for the programme, but last week he said that many of the Wimberley residents are likely to be suffering from toxophobia, an extreme sensitivity to certain odours which provoke anxiety or panic attacks. It is not the chemicals they are sensitive to, but their smell.

Many doctors believe that there is a psychological component in much environmental illness and allergy. A leading article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggested that a large proportion of the people who consult allergists have psychiatric problems, but are seeking a socially acceptable label for them.

A few months on anti-depressants might be worth trying if it spares one a lifetime in a pod. But this is not a film about loneliness and loss. It has a different message. The closing shots of Wimberley show this legend: "It is estimated there are 60,000 chemicals in everyday use." Have a nice day.

JEREMY LAURANCE

40 Minutes: When the Canaries Stop Singing. BBC2, tomorrow, 9.50pm.

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Swing low, sweet Sixties

Peter Riddell doubts the 1964 election is a form guide to the 1992 election

During a break in last week's shadow cabinet review of strategy, Neil Kinnock reminisced with colleagues about the 1964 election campaign. Many were students then, or at the start of careers, although Tony Blair was just an 11-year-old schoolboy. Their memories, Mr Kinnock says, were mostly of a hard-slog campaign, rather than the big switch to Labour suggested by recent comparisons of the mood then and now.

In one sense the Labour leaders' memories are right. There was no great upsurge in support for the party at the 1964 election. It won nearly 60 more seats compared with 1959, to gain a tiny overall majority, but its share of the overall vote rose by just 0.3 percentage points. What happened was a big swing against the Tories, whose share fell by six points, mainly boosting the Liberals' vote, though giving them only two extra MPs.

Comparisons with 1964 are superficially attractive — 13 years of Tory rule, a new prime minister, a livelier Opposition — but they are essentially misleading. The final, narrow Labour victory reflected two contrasting trends, neither of which is present now.

First, there was a change in the political mood in 1963-64. The Tories looked stale following the scandals and splits at the end of the Macmillan years, and this was only partly changed by the arrival of the Home administration. Middle aged politicians and commentators may now have a rose-tinted nostalgia about the excitement and the satire boom of 1963-64. But Harold Wilson did exploit, and fuel, a feeling that it was time for a change. Little of that mood is present now.

Second, there was a change in the political mood in 1963-64. The Tories looked stale following the scandals and splits at the end of the Macmillan years, and this was only partly changed by the arrival of the Home administration. Middle aged politicians and commentators may now have a rose-tinted nostalgia about the excitement and the satire boom of 1963-64. But Harold Wilson did exploit, and fuel, a feeling that it was time for a change. Little of that mood is present now.

'Harold Wilson did exploit, and fuel, a feeling that it was time for a change. Little of that mood is present now'

them. Mr Kinnock at times appears like the leader of a management buy-out of UK plc rather than of a crusade to change Britain.

The Tories also look fresher and have a more popular leader than in 1963-64. John Major has handled the transition from the Thatcher years skilfully, keeping his party largely united and dropping some of the unpopular policies of the late 1980s. He has already responded to voters' worries about public services by raising spending. The Tories' answer to calls for a change of government — that there has been one — seems less unconvincing than in the mid-1960s.

Of much less comfort for the Tories is the other trend of 1964, a booming economy. The Labour lead had been at its peak after the recession of 1962-63, but fell back during 1964 as the

Maudling tax cuts helped fuel rapid expansion and sharply reduced unemployment. That accounts for Labour leaders' memories of a hard slog in the 1964 campaign. In some respects, the striking feature of that election was not that Labour won only narrowly, but that, in view of the strength of the economy, the Tories lost so much support between 1959 and 1964. The Maudling boom was just not strong enough to remove memories of the earlier downturn and to counteract the desire for change.

Now, there is not even a Lamont boomlet. But that does not guarantee a Labour victory, especially as social changes since the 1960s have reduced the size of the party's core support. Moreover, the Tories are still seen as better managers of the economy. Voters may still want to punish the Tories for the poll tax and the recession, but they do not necessarily believe that a Kinnock government could produce a significant improvement.

The convergence of the main parties' appeals and voters' doubts about whether a change of government would make much difference may account for recent poll rankings. Leaving aside occasional fluctuations, the Tories have averaged around 39 to 40 per cent since last spring and Labour has been about 41 to 42 per cent, though there are signs that it has slightly widened the gap in the past few weeks. The big uncertainty is whether the Tory-Labour battles will benefit the Liberal Democrats, who have been squeezed out since the autumn. All but a handful of polls have pointed to a hung Parliament with no overall majority. That is perhaps the crucial difference from 1964.

Then, most voters expected a Labour government, and, for a long period, nearly a majority wanted one. Now, the electorate is less sure what it expects, or wants.

In the scramble to put new embassies in the East, corners must be cut, says Michael Binyon

Schmidt of the FO

Last Friday Her Britannic Majesty's embassy in Kiev was officially opened. But no ambassador in a cocked hat arrived to present credentials, no flag was unfurled, no brass plaque glittered on the gate. Instead, the hard-pressed consul-general was promoted to charge d'affaires and the anonymous hotel room that doubles as his office became the newest of Britain's far-flung embassies, complete with flag, telephone and kettle.

The break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia presents the Foreign Office with its biggest diplomatic challenge since the second world war. In the space of four months two countries have become 21, each clamouring for recognition. Not even in the scramble to decolonise Africa have so many new embassies been in the offing. Will all those counsellors now kicking their heels in Whitehall find themselves dispatched to Alma Ata and Ljubljana, Dushanbe and Sarajevo? Can the Foreign Office, at a stroke, trim its top-heavy pyramid and bring dreams of embassy drawing rooms to dozens of wives awaiting their husbands' knighthoods?

Reality, alas, is more prosaic

and trammelled by Treasury spending limits. Britain will be hard pressed to find money enough to open three new embassies, let alone a score. Size alone would make it impractical to set up the panoply of diplomatic services in Yugoslav republics, some of which may not want in the end to separate from Serbia. Most former republics of the Soviet Union will still be served from Moscow. And in a novel solution that cuts costs and shows eagerness to share sovereignty with European Community partners, the head of Britain's mission to Uzbekistan or Azerbaijan is likely to find himself using the back door of the German embassy.

When Africa gained independence Britain was able to fly the flag without much difficulty simply by amalgamating the old Colonial Office with the Foreign Office and turning former governors' buildings into high commissions. Over the past 30 years, however, Britain has found little

profit, political or commercial, in keeping its men in the Tropics. Burkina Faso, Comoros, Cape Verde and the Central African Republic all have British ambassadors; none live in these scantily populated countries. Only in places where an embassy also serves the interests of unrepresented allies, such as Angola and Mongolia, is a fully staffed mission worthwhile. Like third world ambassadors accredited to half a dozen European states, Britain has found diplomacy often needs little more than an air ticket and a fax. After 50 years, diplomatic relations have been re-established with Albania. The British ambassador to Tirana will be only an occasional visitor.

Nevertheless, the Union Jack and royal crest are potent symbols. In the wake of the failed Soviet coup, Europe hurried back to the Baltics. Britain now has resident ambassadors in all three. Money will also be found for premises in Kiev, now capital of the largest

country entirely in Europe, in Minsk, capital of Belorussia, and Alma Ata in Kazakhstan. The latter two are nuclear powers. Minsk, as well as being closest to Britain, is also improbably the administrative centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States. But the others will probably never see the ambassadorial Rolls, or even a Ford Escort. Pending the niceties of agreement, our man in Moscow is likely to spend a lot of time on Aeroflot as he presents credentials all over the former Soviet Union.

A national presence on the ground is still essential, however, and conveniently the Germans, who have the biggest potential trading and political interests in Eastern Europe, appear happiest to accommodate the British. Shared buildings and embassy services are the first logical step. Whether one day HBM's ambassador will also be Herr Schmidt is more debatable, but not ruled out in Whitehall. At present the

scramble by the bigger EC members, as well as the United States, is to find and occupy the best building. And if Britain is first to find a 16-room building with passable plumbing and a water-tight roof, it will sign a contract straight away — and then suggest letting six of the rooms to the Dutch or the Danes.

Today's telephone diplomacy has removed some of the fun and most of the mystique of embassy life. Gone are the days when the representation to the Sublime Porte occupied the best site in Constantinople. The marble building is still there — now the consulate-general. Past splendour still remains in Kathmandu and Kabul, Cairo and Paris. But the successor states to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will at best see something severely functional: the sort of office a sales representative might choose.

There will not even be any feathers or brocade: by tradition, full diplomatic uniform is worn in only a dozen countries, most of them monarchies. Treasury drab is likely to dictate both the uniform, the furniture and even the location of Britain's new missions in this expanding world.

One law for the Muslims

Sentimentality about other peoples and faiths is leading Britain to condone wickedness, writes Bernard Levin

Here is a simple sentence of only 24 words, beginning the newspaper report of a criminal case, and if it doesn't make your hair stand on end, you must use a singularly powerful brilliantine. "Muslims in Britain," it runs, "have been divided by the murder of Sharifan Bibi, 18, by members of her own family as a punishment for adultery."

Savour the word "punishment" for a moment: does it not suggest something like a trial, with a prosecution and a defence, with witnesses and evidence, and a jury listening to a judge's summing up, and an appropriate sentence at the end of the proceedings, followed perhaps by an appeal? That is what the defendants got, but not their sister. These two murderous hitmen, sinking of self-righteousness, killed the girl and her lover; they apparently dismembered the bodies and threw the remains into a pit in a cellar. Meanwhile, the family "appeared unhelpful and uncooperative".

If I have only made your flesh creep, you have missed the point. Go back and find the crucial words in the opening paragraph: "Muslims in Britain have been divided by the murder..." Oh, they have, have they? And in what proportions? For although only a small number of mad fanatics would act similarly, and not many more would applaud from the wings, the very fact that such murder most foul can be condoned in Britain or any civilised country is surely a cause for shuddering, and — more important than any shudder — action.

Harmonious relations between races in a country as small as Britain are important: on the whole, they have been good here, or at least peaceful. Mr Enoch Powell's wild vision of "the Tiber, flowing with much blood", as he foresaw a *Kulturkampf* between the indigenous and the incomers (forgetting,



among many other things, that we were all incomers once), has not come to pass. God be thanked and Allah be praised and sensible men and women be applauded.

It has been argued that the newcomers should for a time have the seasaw tilted towards them rather than to the host population; if we are serious about assimilation, we must encourage as many immigrants as possible to take on the lineaments of the rest of us. Besides, there are lots of potential black Tory votes in Bradford. The seasaw, inevitably, is very delicately balanced, and it is easy for the authorities — local and central — to smile at the quaint habits of the erstwhile foreigners,

pushed so far that it gets stuck, and it is possible to mark the exact moment when it did stick: it was the panic order by the government not to prosecute those British Muslims who publicly called for the murder of a British citizen; I refer, of course, to Salman Rushdie and the *fatwa* pronounced against him. For what is surely the first time in our history, incitement to murder, though repeatedly and unambiguously expressed, was officially ignored.

We must not be too literal: the death of Sharifan Bibi cannot be simply laid at the door of those who spurred on the *fatwa*. But if you listen carefully to some of the words used in the trial for her murder, you may have cause for unease. Take the pleading of the lawyer first: "It was probably a killing to protect the honour of the family. You may think they had the feelings of their deeply religious father, who was a teacher at a mosque."

Nothing wrong with that, you may say; any defending counsel

their indigenous coevals practising a very different style of life: though remember that it takes courage — courage unto death, even — for a young woman of a strictly religious Muslim family to insist on a career and marriage of her own choice, not of her parents. (I still get a naive pleasure when I come upon children playing, and hear the black ones talking in the same cockney tones as the white.)

Yet we must remember that Islam is a worldwide tree of faith, and beneath some of its branches very ugly things may shelter. Whatever happens over the next few years, few can be happy at what is happening, let alone what may yet happen, in Algeria, where the pot of fanaticism bubbles fiercely on the hob.

Let us not fall into the trap of sentimentality disguised as admiration. There are many people in Britain who applaud, publicly or covertly, those who cleave to the most rigid fundamentalist Muslim teaching and behaviour. Would that Christians, they say, were as assiduous and serious about their own religion, and no wonder that there are fewer and fewer Christian churches, considering the feebleness of what they hear when they go there.

Well, all the Christians need is a few lengths of wood, some piles of twigs, a box of matches and a heretic or two. (Only one or two to start with, that is; if it goes well, we can give a prize for the best translation of *auto-da-fé* — this is a British inquisition, we'll have you know.)

When in Rome... do not please, murder your sister; but if you must, do not feel proud of yourself afterwards. The world has taken a very long time to get out of barbarism as far as it has, and it will take much longer to complete the process. That longest-for-day will only be postponed once more if wickedness is clothed in holiness and bloodlust is mistaken for sacramental oil.

Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord. Some people have forgotten, and some never knew, that the stress in that sentence is on "mine" and "I".

would put it in such words, to ensure as much sympathy as possible for his clients. No doubt; but those words were spoken by the prosecution lawyer, not the defence, and the inexorable laws of physics lay down that anyone who bends backwards far enough will eventually fall over.

But now hear the judge, passing sentence on the two sororicides: "You must remember you are members of a wider family, the family of the human race." It's a wonder he didn't express regret that the law gave him no alternative to a life sentence.

It is easy to say that time will eventually dissolve such evil uprightness; already, the members of the younger generation are turning away from such bloodthirsty precepts, if only because they see

confident that the quaintness will fade along with the erstwhiteness. There was a nasty moment a few years ago when a gentleman from the Middle East took it into his head to slaughter a sheep outside his front door, and seemed surprised, just as he had finished cutting the beast's throat and was getting on with emptying the blood into the gutter, to be told by a passing policeman that such customs are on the whole frowned upon in the more fashionable parts of London, and would he therefore kindly desist. (There is also Dr Siddiqui and his cuttings album, but a circus can hardly exist without the clowns.)

However, the seasaw can be

The spy who loved JFK

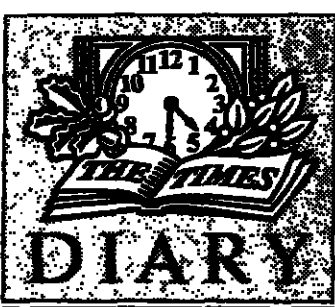
EVEN before the dust has settled on the row over Oliver Stone's film *JFK*, a biography of President Kennedy will further stir controversy with an accusation that he had an affair with a suspected Nazi spy during the last war.

According to Nigel Hamilton, author of *JFK: Reckless Youth*, the first of three volumes about the golden president and his family, Kennedy was never allowed to forget the affair by the head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover. Hamilton claims Hoover used his knowledge as a lever on Kennedy when he became president in 1961.

He says: "Kennedy fell passionately in love with a Danish girl, Inga Arvad, who was four years older than him. The FBI taped their lovemaking when JFK was based in the capital from 1941-42 as a junior intelligence officer. It led to the intervention of President Roosevelt and Kennedy's father, Joseph."

Hamilton, who is researching his trilogy in Kennedy's home town of Boston, will further challenge the Kennedy myth by claiming that JFK's political career was launched on the basis of a corrupt deal by his father. Hamilton says: "Kennedy senior was so determined for his son to become president that in 1945 he bribed the well-known congressman, James Michael Curley, to vacate his Boston seat for John, which he duly won the following year. The correspondence I have seen suggests that JFK was privy to this."

In one of the most sensational passages of the book, Hamilton describes Joseph Kennedy as "one of the most evil men in 20th century American history". Ten years ago the book would not have found an American publisher. In



the wake of Ted Kennedy's recent difficulties and the William Kennedy Smith rape trial, it seems the nation is only too ready to lap up accusations destined to tarnish the image of "Camelot" for ever.

●Mandarins at the MoD took political sensitivity a bit far last week when Dick Cheney, the US defence secretary, was in town. Tom King, his British counterpart, wanted to take him to see Alan Bennett's new play, *The Madness of George III*. But in the play the king, played by Nigel Hawthorne, bemoans the fact that Britain has lost her American colonies. Not a good subject for Mr Cheney, the military advisers suggested. Gaining full marks for sanity, King ignored their advice.

Jumping the gun

OF ALL people, Peter Mandelson, who masterminded Labour's last general election campaign, is the last you would expect to fall foul of election laws. But a leaflet put out by the Labour party in Hartlepool, where Mandelson is the prospective parliamentary candidate, appears to have committed errors that could cost him dear.

In describing Mandelson as the party's candidate, rather than prospective candidate, the party may have unwittingly launched

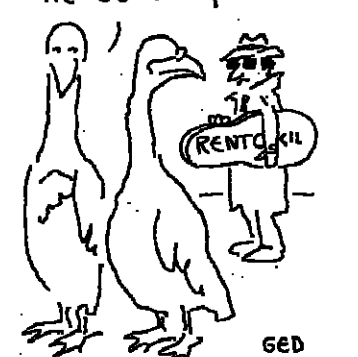
his election campaign. That means that any money Mandelson spends on party propaganda between now and polling day will be counted against the legal limit on his election expenses, which could restrict his ability to spend during the campaign itself.

Mandelson insists he is unconcerned. "I don't give a damn. You are a skunk," was his measured response when asked about the matter.

Feathered friends

PEST controllers have feelings too. Rentokil has turned down a contract from Wandsworth council in London to kill 200 Canada geese because it feels its reputation would be "irreparably damaged". A spokesman for Rentokil, which handles 60 per cent of pest control in Britain, says: "It is hard

make him an offer he can't refuse



to believe any firm would be mad enough to do it. If we did our name would be mud."

Colin Booty, wildlife officer for the RSPCA, agrees with Rentokil and last week wrote to the council asking it to explain the reasons for the cull. But Joanna Kettle of the

council says the cull will take place before the end of the month. Because of the "danger" from animal activists she would not reveal the date or how many marksmen will be used, only that the deed will be done by night.

Rogue gallery

ANTONIA BYATT has accused the Tate gallery of being "high-handed". It says in turn that the Booker prize-winning novelist is being elitist. What is undisputed is that the Tate has ended privileged private viewings on Sunday mornings for Friends of the gallery.

Byatt says: "In the most secretive, high-handed way the gallery has now done away with one of my favourite outings on Sunday mornings. I joined the Friends purely to be able to have this rather privileged access." She turned up one Sunday to find her access had been switched to one Thursday evening a month. "What use is that?" she says. "I want to see the paintings in daylight and don't want to go after work."

Wilf Weeks, chairman of the Friends, says: "The Council of the Friends was concerned that income which is intended for the acquisition of pictures for the Tate was being diverted for the benefit of only a small proportion of the membership." Sounds like a good short story at least, if not a full-length novel.

●Britain's parliamentarians took on their counterparts from Switzerland on the ski slopes of Davos last week. The Brits won the Parallel race, while the Swiss swept the honours in the Giant Slalom. Tim Sainsbury, the Tory MP who had been named as a member of the British team, was not in fact there. "I'm sure they were much better off without my contribution on the slopes," he says.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The search has been on, revealed *The Times* Diary last week for a new scribe to answer the prime minister's letters from the general public. That is the job I did for Mrs Thatcher from 1977 to 1979.

Dealing with a Conservative leader's general correspondence is best compared to digging a ten-mile trench across a minefield. It combines mind-numbing drudgery with occasional enormous explosions.

In the late 1970s, as leader of the Opposition, Mrs Thatcher was receiving every week between 10,000. Borne up like a ping-pong ball on the air currents of national controversy, a party leader's mail bag fluctuates crazily.

Our first task every morning was to open the envelopes. We sorted their contents into two principal heaps: "Views, etc" and "Trickies". The "Views, etc" were generally answered with "thank you for your views", etc, or some variant of this, and an occasional note was compiled for Mrs Thatcher letting her know roughly what people were saying, and in what numbers.

This she devoured hungrily. Mrs Thatcher took an inordinate interest in her public correspondence. She had to be kept from it by every available subterfuge, for, unless restrained, she could be found in the small hours trying to read each of 3,000 letters about capital punishment, or Rhodesia, and underlining in thick

blue felt-tip all the bits she agreed with. I was from Chris Patten's Conservative Research Department, and knew instinctively that it was our duty to divert her from contact with the views of the nation, as they brought out the worst in her.

But she was not personally unkind, and this caused us another problem. The "Trickies" we subdivided into "Poorlies", "Enquiries" and "Loonies", having first removed all correspondence from MPs, peers, knights, or anything containing money or promises of money — which were to be given at once to our superiors.

The "Enquiries" usually got the text of some recent speech in reply, or went to the research department for draft advice. One such, from a man sacked because he would not join a union, went to Jim Prior's research.

I left his draft reply, dodging the issue, on Mrs Thatcher's desk. It was back on mine the next morning with a line straight through it and "I hate" ("hate" underlined three times) "the closed shop" scrawled right across it in her own hand.

But the "Poorlies" (hard luck cases) and "Loonies" (mostly people being poisoned via their television set by death rays from Jim Callaghan — some 60 per cent of the British population, in my view, believe they are being poisoned by somebody or other) were sometimes heart-rending.

The problem was that if Mrs

Thatcher got hold of these she would start penning long and kindly personal replies, unconcerned that there were 500 more where these came from. Her public harshness has become famous, so it is worth mentioning that, privately, she could be kind, unlike her "wet" foes, who were publicly more compassionate but privately rather cynical. It was a nice trait in her, but it did not make her letter-writer's job easier.

That Diary piece took me straight back to the most frightening moment of my life, more terrifying even than when Peruvian bandits set fire to my tent: the moment in 1979 when I entered Mrs Thatcher's room to account for a letter I had written on her notepaper.

The Labour party had printed a million leaflets of it. A facsimile filled the front page of that morning's *Daily Mirror*. Richard Ryder, her secretary, awaited me outside with a triple brandy...

So, a word of advice to the new scribe in Mr Major's office. Before signing any reply to a member of the public, pause. Read it carefully through. Does it inspire in you the thought, "serves him/her jolly well right"? Then read it aloud twice, just for the satisfaction and tear it up.

Count to ten. Place upon your desk a clean sheet of paper, grit your teeth, and write "Dear Sir/Madam, Thank you for your interesting letter. Yours sincerely..."



ISLAM AND THE VOTER

Cancelling parliamentary elections, the almost certain consequence of President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation, is an odd way to preserve democracy. There can be no certainty that this constitutional feint, designed to fend off a stunning victory for Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the second round of voting on Thursday, will prevent the "grave and imminent harm to national cohesion" he cited in announcing his demission. Many weapons seized from police during the 1988 riots which started Algeria down the path to democracy were never recovered. The deployment of the army reflects awareness that FIS supporters could again take to the streets.

Nor, unless the party is banned, will it necessarily keep the FIS out of power. With the parliamentary elections put on hold, a people heartily sick of nearly 30 years under the corrupt and incompetent rule of the National Liberation Front (FLN) could show its displeasure by voting for the FIS candidate in presidential elections.

Yet this is not quite the onesided "coup against democracy" by the ruling FLN denounced by the FIS and other opposition figures. Mr Chadli, who brought in a new constitution guaranteeing freedom of speech, assembly and the right to form political parties in 1989, has been firmly committed to dismantling the FLN's monopoly on power. His mistake may have been to legalise the FIS in the first place. It is publicly dedicated to demolishing those rights, as well as rolling back most of the reforms intended to rid Algeria of its stifled command economy. Since the first round, its leaders have publicly revelled in "the defeat of democracy, which is pure atheism".

If, as expected, the FIS had won enough extra seats on Thursday to give it the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution, Algerians would have voted not merely for a change of party but for a change in the nature of the state. The evidence that this is what they want is not as compelling as the bare statistics of the first round, which gave the FIS 188 out of 232 seats won outright, suggest. More than 40 per cent of the electorate abstained. The quirks of constituency boundaries brought the FIS within 28 seats of a majority with the support of only 3.2 million out of Algeria's 13 million eligible

voters, while the FLN, which held only 16 seats, polled 1.6 million votes.

The unpopularity of the ruling party is undeniable, and some of the allegations of vote-rigging and fraud, which have been cited in court challenges affecting 145 constituencies, are exaggerated. But some 900,000 electoral cards were lost and a million ballot papers were invalid, and there is some evidence that the FIS, which has controlled half Algeria's town halls since municipal elections in 1990, struck opponents off the electoral rolls.

In any country, those who seek to dismantle long entrenched one-party systems mount a tiger which is almost guaranteed to ride the old elites out of office. That has been the healthy consequence in almost all the new democracies in Africa, as in Eastern Europe. But the risks of an undemocratic outcome are vastly greater in the Islamic world, where under one-party dictatorships the mosques, the main centres of resistance, have channelled resentment against misrule into an attack on the impiousness of the secular state as an institution.

The FIS makes no bones about its view that there are only two parties, "the Party of God and the party of the devil". Its leaders are pledged to outlaw any party not "based on the Koran". Since the first round last month, the FIS has published a manifesto committing it to introduce strict Islamic law in every sphere of Algerian life, to review relations with foreign creditors and outlaw usury, and to ban married women from most workplaces. Algeria's independent press will be free only "to defend the Islamic identity". And its extreme wing has ambitions to "spread the faith inside and outside the country, either by persuasion or by terror".

The argument for a breathing space to allow Algerians to consider the radical consequences of an FIS victory is thus strong. There is no place for kneejerk condemnation by foreign "liberals" of an outwardly retrograde step. The FIS has exploited freedoms for which it has nothing but contempt. The army, widely believed to be behind President Chadli's resignation, claims to be defending the liberal 1989 constitution. But it cannot defend it by military dictatorship. After slamming on the brakes, Algeria's leaders must now inch forward again.

FAILURE INADMISSABLE

Like the boy who cried "wolf", commentators on the Uruguay Round of Gatt trade talks have prophesied final breakdown so often that when the warnings finally become relevant they could all too easily be ignored. This morning, the 108 nations belonging to Gatt will meet in Geneva for what has been billed as a "last chance" session, in which they will be called on to accept or reject the 450-page draft treaty drawn up last month by Gatt's director general, Arthur Dunkel. As Mr Dunkel makes plain in his *Times* interview today, the idea of trying to bully Gatt's governments with a "take it or leave it" package, specifically designed to exclude the kind of "substantial modifications" demanded over the weekend by European Community farm ministers, did not come naturally to Gatt's mild-mannered diplomats.

Mr Dunkel and his colleagues would have far preferred to stay in the background, offering advice on the obscure technicalities of international trade law. Their instinct, quite properly, was to leave the headline-grabbing political decisions to governments. But the irresponsible time-wasting of both the American and the EC negotiators left Mr Dunkel with no choice. Holding his nose, he had to do the politicians' job for them.

The five years of back-peddling since the trade round was started have left the governments of the world's trading nations with no real choice. All 108 must now accept Mr Dunkel's draft essentially as it stands, even if they find some of his proposals unacceptable. The alternative — for Europe, for America, for Japan and for the developing countries — would be unqualified disaster. The real wolf has finally come out of the forest.

The main reason why time has run out was illustrated by President Bush's trip to Japan last week. As Mr Dunkel has pointed out, a Gatt agreement must be finalised and initialled by mid-April at latest if it is to avoid

becoming embroiled in this year's US election campaign. The elections could turn into a plebiscite on free trade, and in the absence of a Gatt agreement which ties American business interests even more closely into the world trading system, the protectionists are all too likely to win.

In the EC, meanwhile, the Common Agricultural Policy — the world's most damaging and wasteful trade-distorting system — is finally coming up for radical overhaul. Gatt has been a spur. Breakdown of the global negotiations would hugely complicate the herculean task of starting to drag European farming into the real world. But if the Gatt talks really have reached the eleventh hour, what are the chances of success? The prospects are better than might be inferred from the pugnacious posturing of European farm ministers. The EC's apparently impossible demands can actually be reduced to two technical issues: the treatment of roughly 4 million tonnes of European wheat currently dumped on the world market; and an exemption clause that would allow Brussels to go on supporting EC farmers provided its subsidies did not encourage production and distort world trade.

With a modicum of common sense — and some minor concessions to American sensitivities in other parts of the agreement — it should be possible to resolve these issues without unravelling Mr Dunkel's draft text. But if the negotiators who meet today in Geneva cannot rapidly reach final agreement, Mr Dunkel must appeal to their political masters. A G7 summit, to deal with the Uruguay Round and nothing else, should then be called in short order. If the world trading system is to be ruined and the global economy plunged into depression, George Bush, Jacques Delors, John Major, Helmut Kohl, François Mitterrand et al must at least be forced to take personal blame.

NON NOBIS OPUS DEI

Every religion has its fundamentalists, zealous who take the precepts of faith to extremes. Rather than expel them, it is often wiser to keep such enthusiasts inside a broad church, where their impact will be diluted by moderates or cancelled out by other zealots. But the risk in seeking to contain them is that they try to take over the larger institution. In the eyes of its critics, Opus Dei is an outstanding example of this risk.

They see Opus Dei as a fanatical right-wing conspiracy trying to infiltrate and even control the Roman Catholic Church. If Opus Dei secures the canonisation of its founder, Josemaria Escriva, the organisation's prestige in the church is bound to increase, since to be founded by a saint, in Catholic eyes, is to be guaranteed God's blessing. In May, when Escriva is due to be beatified by the Pope, the last big bridge on his road to sainthood will have been crossed.

There is little about Opus Dei on which its friends and critics agree. It seems it is either godly or devilish. The humble sanctity (or morbid pride) of Escriva is the biggest point of contention, for Opus Dei's claims for its late founder are anything but modest. Opus Dei claims that Escriva founded the organisation in 1928 at the direct inspiration of God. He is known in its literature as "the Father", creating scope in its members' minds for confusion with God Himself.

Opus Dei's greatest strength has always been in Spain, and it also has powerful bases

in America, Germany, Italy, and parts of Latin America. Opus Dei came closest to political power when it provided several senior members of Franco's regime in its final stages. Escriva, who would have been more at home in medieval Spain than the 20th century, practised severe mortification of the flesh, lashing himself, according to one contemporary, "until the walls and ceiling were splashed with blood". Mortification is still a rule of membership. Little was changed by the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65): the organisation is still unashamedly elitist and internally authoritarian. Hypersensitive about any attack on its good name, it has often been accused of suppressing (or ensuring its friends in high places suppress) evidence harmful to the cause of Escriva's canonisation in Rome.

Since Vatican II the Roman Catholic Church has, thankfully, left behind the monolithic character of its ultramontane period. Within its boundaries it has become a plural society, stretching from New Rightists to old Marxists, from traditionalists to progressives. It should have room for Opus Dei, as for liberation theologians, but that room is not the engine room.

The canonisation of Escriva would demonstrate that Opus Dei has tentacles that stretch to the heart of the Vatican. Nothing would more discredit the canonisation process, while injuring the reputation of the Roman Catholic Church itself.

The courts' work can be speeded

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Your article, "Victims of a trying system" (January 8), recalls Lord Lane's recent warning of "mega-trials", such as the seven in London which seem likely to last between one month and six, not to mention some 20 lengthy civil cases. You reported on January 3 that Mr Asil Nadir has been charged with more than 70 offences and that his solicitors say that the next 12 months will be needed to prepare his defence.

What purpose is served by charging so many offences? Why should not the prosecution revert to the practice followed in the 1950s of putting into the indictment about six alleged offences, choosing those easiest to prove and spacing them out over the period of alleged dishonest conduct? Whenever Lord Goddard was faced with a long indictment he used to say to prosecuting counsel: "Choose your best six counts; the others can remain on the file."

During those years I was briefed in many long fraud cases at the Old Bailey. Most lasted about three weeks, the longest, the State Building Society case, six weeks. That was by far the most complicated case I was ever concerned with either as barrister or as a judge.

When there has been a criminal enterprise justice does not require that every dishonest act should be identified and punished. To do so, and then to make the sentences consecutive, would be bad sentencing practice. What tends to happen, with the approval of the Court of Appeal, is for a severe sentence to be imposed on one count and for the sentences on the others to be made concurrent.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Stelton, York.
January 8.

Muslims in Britain

From the Reverend D. R. J. Holloway

Sir, The debate over the issues raised by the "Muslim parliament" would be helped if we could be assured of all the facts. The media over the last few days (your report, January 7) have spoken of two million Muslims in Britain. So, in a radio interview last Sunday, did Angela Rumbold of the Home Office. Where does this figure come from?

The current edition of *British Social Attitudes* (eighth report, 1991) gives 0.9 per cent of the population that "regard themselves as belonging" to Islam and 0.1 per cent whose family is Muslim but no longer consider themselves as such. On a population of 57.5 million (the latest projection) that gives you 517,500 Muslims in Britain or 575,000 including the lapsed.

Social Trends 21 (HMSO, 1991) gives a figure of one million Muslims. This however comes from the *UK Christian Handbook* and a complex computation based on the proportion of Muslims in the population of the countries of origin.

We have had no religious census since 1851. The safest figures to go on probably are from opinion polls and social surveys. These consistently give figures for all the non-Christian faiths of 3 per cent or less. Mori, for example, last March gave a figure of 2.2 per cent for all the non-Christian faiths, with 1 per cent being Muslim. But the media and the Home Office are now suggesting that Muslims alone make up 3.5 per cent of the population. This contrasts with Iqbal Wahhab, in his pamphlet *Muslims in Britain* (1989), who, also computing from country of origin, gives a figure of 1.7 per cent.

If we averaged *Social Trends* and the social survey figures and said the Muslim population was more like three quarters of a million, would that not be more responsible?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLLOWAY,
7 Overburn Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear.
January 12.

Dental care

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health

Sir, The new contract for dentists was designed to do just what Mr Naylor, the dentist you interviewed (report, January 8) wants — to replace the "drill and fill" of the years after 1948 by looking after people's mouths so as to prevent problems.

Over 21 million adults and children are now registered with NHS dentists. The adults receive continuing care and the dentist is paid for this. Children's care is provided through a capitation system designed to encourage treatment to conserve teeth. I have no doubt that this will further improve the high standard of dental health in this country, which is better than among almost all our European neighbours.

The vast majority of dentists still work within the NHS. In most parts of the country there is not the slightest difficulty in obtaining NHS dental treatment, and if anyone has a problem steps will be taken where necessary to improve the situation.

Yours truly,
HOOPER,
Department of Health,
Richmond House,
71 Whitehall, SW1.
January 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Ways to lessen reading difficulties

From Mrs Penny Rose

Sir, It is very encouraging to see (report and leading article, January 4) that the government is at last taking an interest in the New Zealand reading recovery programme.

I, like many colleagues teaching the Royal Society of Arts diploma course for teachers of pupils with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia), have for long advocated Professor Marie Clay's diagnostic assessment and teaching methods ("On the road to recovery", *Education Times*, January 6).

In New Zealand failing readers are given individual tuition from their sixth birthday. Evidence shows that most go on to become good readers.

If the recovery programme were established in Britain, teachers trained on the 30-odd RSA diploma courses in a variety of methods would be able to concentrate on teaching the hard core of pupils with intractable literacy difficulties, rather than vast numbers of poor readers of all ages, most of whom might have overcome their difficulties had funding been available for individual help at an early age.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY ROSE,
Amersham and Wycombe College,
Belfield House, Oxford Road,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
January 6.

From Professor T. R. Miles

Sir, The recent interest shown by politicians in reading standards is much to be welcomed. May I, however, put in a plea for those individuals (possibly up to 10 per cent of the population) who because of their physical make-up are late at learning to read, remain slow at absorbing printed symbols, and have difficulty with spelling and elementary calculation?

In other areas, such as engineering, art, architecture and — of

particular interest in the future — computer programming, such individuals may sometimes be exceptionally talented. Branding them as "failures" because they are unsuccessful at meeting targets set by the literate and numerate is no way to develop their talents.

It is therefore essential that there should be a climate of opinion in which "tests" are seen, not as things to be "passed" or "failed", but as ways of picking out each individual's distinctive needs.

It would be good to see the political parties collaborating on this matter rather than sniping at one another.

Yours etc.,
T. R. MILES,
University of Wales, Bangor,
Department of Psychology,
Bangor, Gwynedd,
January 10.

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Mr Kenneth Clarke is absolutely right to decide upon a £10 million pilot project on the teaching of reading (report, January 9) rather than spend the £42 million demanded by the Labour party (report, January 4).

There have always been pupils who are slow to learn. Just over 50 years ago my headmaster in a Durham county pit village elementary school solved the problem simply and without cost.

For half an hour each day it was the duty of two or three of us who were good at reading to give individual tuition to those of our fellow pupils who had severe learning difficulties. This system, which also applied to a lesser degree to arithmetic, meant that the majority of the class was not held back but those who needed help received it.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN ASKEW,
27 Golf Links Avenue,
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire,
January 10.

chance have the police of ever disarming the criminal community if they do not know from where the weapons are coming?

Mr Patten was also quoted as saying that "the use of firearms for crime was extremely rare". Where has he been for the last two months? The number of shootings in south London has soared, and a police sergeant is seriously injured in hospital, having been shot (reports, December 20, January 9).

Armed crime seems to be getting out of control in this country and the police, instead of spending so much time monitoring the activities of legitimate marksmen and hunters, would be better occupied fighting crime on the streets.

Yours faithfully,
LINDSAY JAMIESON,
6 Flag Walk, Pinner, Middlesex,
January 9.

associated materials much of which is never included in the final programme due to limited airtime.

Central and the university are at an early stage of the joint venture, but it is envisaged that in due course the project should be under the direction of an independent trust on the lines of The Television Trust for the Environment established by Central some five years ago.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER JAMES
(Controller, Features Group),
Central Productions Ltd.,
46 Charlotte Street, W1,
January 6.

happen to think he deserves better but that does not change this fact.

Dr Bradley talks about the low ebb of reputation which the Savoy opera is suffering at the moment. This is not because of a lack of understanding of Sullivan's music, but of Gilbert's words. Even today, Gilbert's achievement in theatrical history is largely unknown, and the spirit of his works utterly misunderstood.

His 150th anniversary fell in 1986 with a fanfare of silence. There was an exhibition of Gilbert materials in New York, true, but that was about all, as far as I know. Unfortunately, not all deserving artists have their anniversaries celebrated.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW CROWTHER,
82 The Avenue, Clayton,
Bradford, West Yorkshire,
January 4.

Murder in Angola

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola

Sir, Your report, "Holiday firms steer clear of hazards in Angola" (January 6) asserts that Angola is "a country without a government" and refers to "the demise of the socialist-backed government of the MPLA". Anyone familiar with my country, particularly the ongoing peace process, would know that the government continues in office and that, under the terms of the Bicesse peace agreement signed by the government and Unita in May 1991, Unita recognises President José Eduardo dos Santos as head of state and government until multiparty general elections scheduled for next September.

The reference to the ability of "the regime of the former guerrilla leader Dr Jonas Savimbi" to restructure the economy is therefore irrelevant. It should be pointed out that legislation

introduced by the government aims at establishing a mixed economy, slimming down the state sector and providing incentives for private investment.

That there should be instability in a country subjected to war since its independence is hardly surprising. The appalling murder of British citizens on January 3 at Quielenges, in an area controlled by Unita, is being investigated by the Angolan authorities. My government made protracted diplomatic efforts to achieve an end to the internal conflict which has caused so many deaths and so much suffering and economic destruction. It will continue to do its utmost to ensure peace and calm and guarantee that there shall be no more tragic loss of life.

Yours truly,
JOSE GUERREIRO ALVES PRIMO,
Embassy of the People's Republic of Angola,
98 Park Lane, W1,
January 9.

Crucial question on farmland use

From Mr Nicholas Woolley

Sir, In his address to the Oxford farming conference (report, January 7) the prime minister posed a question of crucial importance to the future well-being of the countryside: "Do we really need to offer as much protection to farmland now that we have surpluses?"

With the new planning guidance on rural enterprises expected out later this month his remarks could not have been more timely.

Deciding what we should do with the millions of acres no longer likely to be needed for food production is one of the key questions of our time. Simply allowing such land to fall into dereliction is no solution. We must not repeat the mistakes of the 1930s. Nor can we look for salvation to less intensive farming methods at a time when common agricultural policy reform, pressures from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the opening up of Eastern Europe are forcing farmers to become more, not less, efficient.

Overwhelmingly, therefore, the need is to find positive uses for surplus farmland. Forestry has a key role to play here, particularly as we are virtually the least afforested country in Europe. But the prime minister is absolutely right in saying that we must face up to the need to allow some of this surplus land to be made available for sensible, controlled development that provides the homes, jobs, affordable transport and other services that are so badly needed in many rural areas.

The response to the prime minister's question, therefore, must not be a desperate defence of every square foot of surplus farmland or redundant farm buildings from development. Instead it should be a firm determination to ensure that necessary new development — whether it be the conversion of a cow shed or the creation of a new village — is carried out in a controlled and environmentally sound way and to the very highest standards.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WOOLLEY
(President, Rural Practice Division),
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street, SW1,
January 8.

Poisonous clouds

From Mr John Osborne

Sir, Since you kindly published my letter (December 26), realising that it was not an idle complaint about choice of cigarettes or smoking itself, but a hopeless, figurative tilt at the outrages of "Europeanism", avidly connived at by those in power and those anticipating it, my front door-mat has been buried beneath expressions of sympathy and shared despair. They have come from dozens of countries, including those in the continental EC. Some speak a defiant courage, but most match my own apprehension of inexorable defeat.

Still, with many of them, have arrived huge parcels of consoling, yes, Turkish cigarettes, many from Turkey itself, with promises of an enduring supply, which will probably last me out.

Civis Britannicus sum no longer, but I may at least, puff delicious, poisonous clouds of vaporous contempt into rings, proclaiming: God rot the powers of Brussels and Westminster — and to hell with Burgundy.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN OSBORNE,
The Hurst, Chinton,
Craven Arms, Shropshire,
January 7.

Homes in Jerusalem

From Mr J. A. Brennan

Sir, In a leading article of January 4 you write of Jewish "zealots turning Arabs out of their homes" in Jerusalem. I believe this not to be the case. A number of houses in the Silwan area of the city were purchased perfectly legally by Jews recently, and some of the purchasers moved into these houses. While this may not have been tactful, it was legal, and cannot be represented as "turning out" the residents.

It ought also to be borne in mind that a number of Jews lived in Silwan until they were driven out by the Arabs in the 1930s.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. BRENNAN,
St Clare, Sandfield Park,
Liverpool 12,
January 5.

Weighing in

From Professor Eric Birley, FBA

Sir, In pursuit of his campaign for air tickets to be costed by passenger weight, Matthew Parris ("... and moreover", January 6) may like to know that when I was due to travel to Cairo for M114, my War Office department, in October 1941, the RAF gave me a weight allowance of 220 lbs, including myself. For light reading I was only able to take with me an India paper copy of Virgil.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC BIRLEY,
Carvoran House, Greenhead,
Via Carlisle, Cumbria,
January 10.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071) 782 5046.

كثير من الامل



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 12: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.
The Bishop of Sheffield preached the sermon.
Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal of Academic Excellence at King Edward VII's School, King's Lynn, to Mr Graham Hart, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr M. J. Walker, Headmaster.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 11: The Duke of York, Patron, the British Schools

Exploring Society, this afternoon attended an audio-visual presentation at the Royal Geographical Society in London.
Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton was in attendance.
The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended a concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Symphony Hall, International Convention Centre, Birmingham.
His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands (The Earl of Aylesford).
Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.S.H. Beard and Miss P.A. Hitching
The engagement is announced between Mr T.S.H. Beard, son of Mr and Mrs C.H. Beard, of London, and Miss P.A. Hitching, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. Hitching, of Swadlow, Oxfordshire.

Mr P.G.W. Bear and Miss C.L. Beasley
The engagement is announced between Mr P.G.W. Bear, son of Mr and Mrs C.L.J. Bear, of Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, and Miss C.L. Beasley, daughter of Mr A. Beasley, of Savoy, Peterborough, and Mrs J. Barry, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

Mr R.J. Boyd and Miss S. Pyot
The engagement is announced between Mr R.J. Boyd, son of Mr and Mrs R. Boyd, of Killybegs, Co. Cork, and Miss S. Pyot, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Pyot, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr A. Brunero and Miss D. Bansk
The engagement is announced between Mr A. Brunero, son of Mr R. Brunero, of Debarah, daughter of Mr M. Bansk and Mrs G. Hamilton.

Mr J.C. Burrell and Miss C.E. Edney
The engagement is announced between Mr J.C. Burrell, son of Mr and Mrs G. Burrell, of Shenfield, Essex, and Miss C.E. Edney, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Edney, of Bridgewater, Somerset.

Mr D. Ferguson and Miss A.M. Barks
The engagement is announced between Mr D. Ferguson, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Ferguson, of Chidhurst, Rogate, Hampshire, and Miss A.M. Barks, daughter of Mr Geoffrey Barks, of Kirkheaton, Northumberland, and Mrs Peter Vaughan, of Tranwell Woods, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Mr R.C.P.R. Gordon and Miss K.E. Morton
The engagement is announced between Mr R.C.P.R. Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire, and Miss K.E. Morton, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon, of Burdon, Hampshire, and Katharine, daughter of the late Mr George Morton, and Mrs Patricia Morton, of West Derby, Liverpool.

Mr P.J. Griffin and Miss A.M. Jones
The engagement is announced between Mr P.J. Griffin, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Griffin, of Wilmore, Warwickshire, and Miss A.M. Jones, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jones, of Northwood, Middlesex, and the late Mr Edwin Jones, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr J. Hanwell and Miss C.E. Tidd
The engagement is announced between Mr J. Hanwell, son of Mr and Mrs I.W. Hanwell, of Dorridge, Lincolnshire, and Miss C.E. Tidd, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Tidd, of Tidebrook, Sussex.

RSC aids arts centre

THE Royal Shakespeare Company has joined the battle to save the Sturrs arts centre near Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, said to be the largest of its kind in Britain (Simon Tait writes).

Sturrs faces closure if Caradon district council fails to approve an interim grant of £30,000 when it meets next month.

Last week the RSC made its first appearance in Cornwall, under the aegis of Sturrs, at Liskeard near by, performing *Measure for Measure* and *The Blue Angel*, directed by Trevor Nunn.

Jo Beddoes, the tour organiser, said: "We are here because we want to promote ourselves in the region, but also to promote Sturrs

and inform the community about it. Sturrs has worked extremely well for us - we are virtually sold out for the week - and we want to be able to make it a regular venue. But there is no professional theatre venue in Cornwall and without Sturrs it is hard to see how we could make a return visit."

The centre, founded ten years ago on a former pig farm, has a debt of £200,000 which it will be unable to meet without the help of the district council, which is formulating its first arts policy.

Facilities include an art gallery and an outdoor theatre but if the interim grant is approved an indoor theatre and an expansion on a further 11 acres is planned.

Nature notes

BRAMBLINGS are feeding on beech mast where it lies in the trees: they are like very orange chaffinches with a white rump. Most of them come here for the winter from Norway and Sweden. They often roost with chaffinches but the two species rarely feed together because the chaffinches bill is not sharp enough to get beech seeds out of their husks.

Fieldfares and redwings have practically finished the hawthorn berries now and are going out into the open fields. Wood pigeons are cooing occasionally when they fly out of the trees in the fog the usual clatter of their wings sounds more like a drumbeat.

Birch trees have short, stiff catkins often growing in threes like a bird's front toes. There are two kinds of birch in Britain - the familiar silver birch with its very white bark and drooping branches, and the hairy birch,

which is also quite common, and has greyer bark and boughs that point upwards.

Lesser periwinkle is an evergreen plant that flourishes through the winter: its dark green leaves are often found against a fence at country railway stations, and even at this time of year a purple flower can sometimes be seen.

REDWING
DJM

OBITUARIES

DAME ANNE GODWIN

Dame Anne Godwin, DBE, general secretary of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, 1956-62, and chairman of the TUC, 1961-62, died on January 11 aged 94. She was born in July 1897.

ALTHOUGH in her youth Anne Godwin had fought for the vote for women, she was not what in these days would be regarded as an extreme feminist. Her sympathies were catholic and prevented her from becoming narrowly strident. That did not mean that she could not espouse any cause she believed in with passion. Fiercely she could certainly be and in her trade union work on behalf of both men and women she allied this with an inner toughness which made her a formidable negotiator. But these qualities were always tempered by an essentially moderate viewpoint and, above all, by a sense of humour. Indeed, in her dealings with her colleagues her readiness to see a joke was regarded as slightly unusual by the men among them, at that time.

She had such a pleasant and gentle personality that she was, sometimes, not detectable on first encounter as the resolute leader of 60,000 office workers. In the male-dominated world of organised labour of her day, her headmistress looks and bearing caused the doorman of more than one conference hall to look on with amazement bordering on concern as she walked through its portals into a scrimmage of hard-drinking, tough-talking union leaders. But her mental qualities - she was reckoned to have one of the sharpest and best-read minds in the TUC - commanded respect from both male and female colleagues: the former always made room for her in their councils. These qualities apart, the key factor in her success was her determination. This expressed itself in her belief that the women's struggle was not just a matter of a fight for equal pay but for equality of opportunity and responsibility.

Beatrice Anne Godwin was born at Farncombe, Surrey, and was educated at the British School, Bridge Road, Godalming. She left at 15 and began her working life as a counting house clerk in a West End store, earning 5s for a six-day week, working from 9am until 7pm. At sales time the working day lengthened to 10pm, with a free supper as payment for the overtime. In 1916 she moved to the Army Pay Office as a civilian clerk. Her pay was



now 16s a week, but with the war prices were soaring too and some of the women working in the office formed themselves into a deputation and went to ask the Army Paymaster for more money. They did not get it, being thoroughly shouted down in the process. But this experience planted a seed of inner resistance in Miss Godwin's mind which germinated into a determination to do something practical about trade unionism after the war.

Moving to an engineering office in 1920, she joined the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries and in 1928 became its organiser. In 1941 she became its assistant general secretary but very soon the union merged with the National Union of Clerks, the new body taking the title of Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union.

She continued as the new union's assistant general secretary until 1956 when she took over the top job. At that time she was the only woman holding such a position in a union catering for both men and women and only the second to have done so.

As head of a clerical union one of her chief concerns was what she saw as "the lowered status of the clerk in the scheme of things" and she particularly deplored the effects of an education system which encouraged girl clerks to be able to type flawlessly but deprived them of a general education which might encourage more initiative. From her earliest days she was an ardent advocate of day release schemes to help remedy this defect.

In 1949 she joined Dame Anne Loughlin and Dame Florence Hancock as the third woman member of the TUC general council. Women were to remain as a fragment of a minority on the general council for the rest of her working life, and even in 1956, the year of her becoming leader of her own union, women delegates at the Trades Union Congress were still speaking ruefully of the "meagre handful of us" - there were 30 women out of 1,000 delegates.

When she became chairman of the TUC in 1961, in succession to the grave-voiced boilermaker, Ted Hill, she was only the third woman to preside over a TUC annual conference, her predecessors being Dame Anne Loughlin and Dame Florence Hancock. Her presidential address, which was generally hailed as a fine, fighting performance, was largely devoted to her favourite topic, education, in which she deplored a state system which concentrated its resources on the 25 per cent of children who got into grammar schools, at the expense of the majority who had to make do with the secondary modern system of that era. She complained of a concentration on vocational education at an early age, at the expense of a broader, liberal education and warned that it was creating divisive cultural barriers between classes which threatened great harm to the nation.

She retired from the TUC general council in 1963 after 14 years of pioneering work, but her "retirement" was an active one. She had always had the widest interests both inside and outside the TUC. She was a member of the Central Advisory Council for Education and was a signatory to the Crowther report, 15 to 18; she served on the Carr-Saunders committee on education and commerce and for ten years in the 1950s served as adviser to the British workers' representative at ILO conferences in Geneva. From 1962 to 1968 she was a governor of the BBC and from 1963 to 1969 she was a full-time member of the Industrial Court. She was also a tireless worker for the Mary Macarthur educational trust, raising funds to provide opportunities for further education for working women. She had been appointed OBE in 1952 and was created DBE in 1962.

In retirement she lived at Worcester Park, Surrey, where she shared a house with her sister, a senior civil servant. Her sister predeceased her.

SIR WILLIAM BARKER



Sir William Barker, KCMG, OBE, British ambassador to Czechoslovakia, 1966-68, and Bover professor of Russian at Liverpool University, 1969-76, died on January 8 aged 82. He was born on July 19, 1909.

WILLIAM Barker once described himself as a "rather anonymous person". In 1968, however, he occupied centre stage - or came as close as any diplomat can to doing so.

The casting was unusually apposite. As Soviet tanks moved in to bring the so-called "Prague spring" to its stormy end, Britain's envoy in the Czechoslovak capital was a Slavonic specialist and scholar in his own right with unenviable contacts among the local people.

Not that his duties were entirely diplomatic. As a signal reached the embassy in the early hours of August 21 that the Warsaw Pact was invading the territory of its own ally, Barker ordered that the embassy should become a British refuge.

While brave young Czechoslovaks in the streets vainly tried to defy the advancing Russian armour, many hundreds of British expatriates

caught in Prague - students, tourists and businessmen among them - crowded into the embassy cinema and club. For days they camped out on chairs like strikebound holidaymakers at Heathrow while Barker's wife, Margaret, with her daughter and son-in-law helped the staff to provide them with coffee and ham sandwiches - until their evacuation could be organised.

The events of 1968 provided a dramatic close to a distinguished diplomatic career for Bill Barker. He retired from the foreign service later that year to return to academia at Liverpool University, where he had started out some 40 years before.

Born at Leigh, Lancashire, where his father had once owned a bakery, he went to Liverpool from Leigh Grammar School and took a first class degree in Russian studies. Unable to go on to the Soviet Union, he went instead to Czechoslovakia where he was taught by Russian émigrés in Prague. He also learned Czech and took a doctorate at the local Charles University.

Barker remained there teaching for a number of years, returning to this coun-

counsellor the next year, proceeded to Oslo in 1951, to Boston, Mass., as consul-general in 1954 and after that to the embassy in Washington.

In 1956 his ability as a Russian linguist was recognised by his selection as chief interpreter during the visit to Britain by Bulganin and Krushchev. He served as minister in Moscow between 1960 and 1963, returned to the United States for a 12-month sabbatical at Harvard, then after three years in the Foreign Office became ambassador in Prague in 1966.

The timing was doubly fortuitous. That year saw the rehabilitation of those military leaders who had previously been reviled by the communist regime for remaining in the West during the war. In consequence, when Barker arrived in Prague he found many of his old wartime contacts in positions of some influence in the capital.

Given his specialised knowledge of the country and his mastery of its language and culture, this meant that he was not only in the right place but was there at the right time to observe the rise and fall of the communist reformer Al-

exander Dubcek. Not the least of his responsibilities during the next two years was the briefing of dozens of British journalists who flocked there.

This expertise on Czechoslovakian affairs did not endear him to the country's political hardliners. In 1970 the communist party newspaper *Rude Pravo* denounced him as an alleged agent of the British secret service, while the Russians accused him of conspiring to help Dubcek.

By this time, however, Barker had returned to his first discipline, as Bover professor of Russian at Liverpool. His predecessor in Prague, the late Sir Cecil Parrott, had earlier re-crossed the same bridge to teach at Lancaster.

Mild in manner, a reflective, donnish diplomat, one of Barker's strengths had been the rapport he had struck with his staff within the embassy. The same characteristics now stood him in equal stead as he readjusted to academic life. He retired from Liverpool at the age of 67.

Sir William Barker is survived by his wife, Margaret, whom he married in 1939, and by their daughter and son.

School announcements

Birthdays today

Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 66; Air Marshal Sir John Baker-Carr, 86; Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former Premier of Queensland, 81; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 38; Mr Michael Bond, author and creator of Paddington Bear, 66; Dr Sydney Brenner, CBE, molecular biologist, 65; Sir John Cairnes, civil servant, 59; Lady Donaldson of Kingsbridge, author, 85; the Earl of Essex, 72.

Mr Stephen Glover, former editor, *The Independent* on Sunday, 40; Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 23; Mr Olaf Lambert, former vice-president, AA, 67; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 28; Mr Harry Roach, non-executive chairman, Sunrise Television, 58; Mr Bernard Shrimley, journalist, 61; Mr K.C. Turpin, former vice-chancellor, Oxford University, 77; Lord Willis, 74.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of British Red Cross Youth, will attend a luncheon at the Lanesborough Hotel, SW1, at 12.30.

Party

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained at a fancy dress party at Guildhall on Saturday children connected with the City, the Diplomatic Corps, the Livery Companies, HM Armed Forces and London boroughs.

Bedford School

The Easter Term begins today with 1,110 boys in the School. Christopher Cosam continues as Head of School. Andrew Gonnarsall is Captain of Hockey and Robert Perry, Captain of Boats. Bedford School Choral Society will perform Mozart's *Requiem* in the Great Hall on Sunday, March 15, at 7.30pm.

Bromsgrove School

School convenes today at Bromsgrove for the Lent Term. The Open Mornings are on January 16 for 7- to 12-year-olds and on February 1 for 13- and over. The Choral Society will perform *African Sketches* in Birmingham Town Hall on March 20. The Careers Fair is on March 25 after which term ends.

Cobham Hall

The Spring term begins today. Pamela Kemsley continues as The Guardian. The Confirmation service will be conducted by The Lord Bishop of Rochester at Rochester Cathedral on Friday, March 6. The school play will be performed on Saturday, March 28. Term ends on Sunday, March 29.

Forest School

The Lent Term commences today at Forest School. The Confirmation Service, to be taken by the Bishop of Barking, will be held on March 22, 1992. Advanced notice is given of a Reunion in

September for Old Foresters who left School between 1967 and 1972. Details will be announced later. Any Old Forester who is not on the mailing list should contact the Warden's Secretary.

Malvern College

The Lent Term at Malvern College begins today. Half Term Exat is from February 15 to 18. A service of Confirmation will be held in the College Chapel on February 23. Examinations for the Sixth Form Scholarships takes place on February 21 and 22, and the Entrance Scholarship examinations take place from February 24 to 26. The Music Scholarship examination is from February 3 to 5, and that for Art on February 25. The Lower Sixth will spend the week beginning February 10, away from the College on Work Experience. The Ledbury Run takes place on March 24. The Combined Choral Societies of the College and Malvern Girls' College will perform David Fanshawe's *African Sketches* in the Winger Gardens on Friday, March 27. Term ends on March 28.

Marlborough College

The Lent Term at Marlborough College begins today. Mrs Rosemary Groves joins as a second Deputy Head. Mr John Ireside succeeds Mr Robert Peel as Head of Wind. Mr Nicholas Parks joins as the new master in charge of Outdoor Activities. During Mr R.T. Sanderson's sabbatical term Mr John Franklin becomes Act-

ing Housemaster of C3 and Mr Roger Thomas joins for one term to teach Geography. Christian Johansen (82) becomes Senior Prefect. Adam Morone-Griffiths (C1) Captain of School, Rachel Pooley (Elmhurst) Captain of Lacrosse and Michelle Chan (Turner House) Captain of Netball. Confirmation by the Bishop of Salisbury will be on Sunday, March 8. Club Day will be on Sunday, March 15, when the Penny Reading will be a performance of *Oh What a Lovely War*. The orchestral concert will be on Sunday, March 1 and the Choral Society concert will be a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on March 22. Exat is from February 20 to 25 and term ends on March 27.

Moulsholf Preparatory School

The Spring Term begins at Moulsholf Preparatory School today. Oliver Trebbey is head boy, Michael Burroughs, captain of rugby football and Philip Wyatt, captain of sevens. Per-Christina Rae is leader of the orchestra and Neil Fisher is head chorister. There will be a Musical Evening on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28. Tickets available from the School and all proceeds to go to the Charlotte Stammer-Smith Memorial Fund. Term ends on Thursday, April 2.

St Edmund's College, Ware

Lent Term begins today with R.A. James (Challoner) taking up

his appointment as Head Boy. The Entrance and Scholarship Examinations are on January 25, 1992, with the Music Scholarship on January 18, 1992. The tenth annual Half Marathon is on March 22. The Junior School production of *Iolanthe* is on March 26-28. The Annual Gameskeeper and Countryman Fair will be on April 4 and 5. The CCF Adventurous Training Expedition will be from April 20-26 in the Peak District. Term ends on April 4, 1992.

Wellington School

The Lent Term at Wellington School begins today and ends on Friday, March 27. The Rev B.T. Lyons joins the staff as Chaplain, coming from the parish of Christ Church, St Albans. Auditions for music scholarships will be on February 24. Performances of *Iolanthe* will be given on March 18-21. Oxford and Cambridge OW dinners will be held on February 7 (Brasenose College) and February 28 (Clare College), and the London OW dinner is at Lord's on March 13.

Church news

Diocese of Bangor

The Rev Canon Richard Llewellyn Owen, Canon Missioner and Vicar in the Rectorial Benefice of Bangor, has been appointed Rural Dean of Arfon Deanery.

Church in Wales

The life barony conferred on Sir Michael Mustill, appointment as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary has been granted by the name, style and title of Baron Mustill, of Pateley Bridge in the County of North Yorkshire.

CANON LESLIE WILSON

The Rev Canon Leslie Wilson, honorary dean of Geraldton, Western Australia, and former archdeacon of Carpentaria, Queensland, died on December 29 aged 82. He was born on July 19, 1909.

LESLIE Wilson masterminded the building of two cathedrals, St Thomas's, Kuching, Sarawak, and Holy Cross Cathedral, Geraldton, Western Australia. They reflect a hectic life of far horizons which took Wilson from his quiet birthplace near Durham to the Far East, to Australasia and then back again - to a village not far from the point from which he had started. He had his sorrows, however: his mother's death within days of giving birth to him, an unhappy first marriage, ill-health and a period of doubt over his church.

He was the youngest of a vicar's four sons. An elder brother, John Leonard Wilson, became Bishop of Singapore and then of Birmingham. Tortured by the Japanese during the war, the bearded Bishop of Birmingham, as the late Richard Dimbleby dubbed him, was a familiar figure at the annual festivals of remembrance in the Albert Hall until his death in 1970.

Leslie Wilson read theology at Durham, but left without a degree and moved to Edinburgh Theological College. After an assistant priesthood in Edinburgh he was rector of Fort William, 1938-42, and Canon of Argyll and the Isles, 1940-42.

He then entered a period of spiritual crisis. Always a high Anglican, he converted to Roman Catholicism. By now married, though unhappily, he was clearly barred from becoming a priest in his new Church, so worked as an education officer in Scotland. Then just after the war he joined his brother in Singapore, on the staff of Toc H under South East Asia Command.

Wilson missed the life of a parish priest, however, and was persuaded by his brother to return to the Anglican Church - as vicar of Malacca, Malaya, 1946-50. He left again to become principal probation officer for Malaya for two years, but returned as vicar of Kuching, 1952-55. During this time he supervised the construction of St Thomas's, of which he was provost and canon for four years.

He travelled to Western Australia in 1960, first as rector of Geraldton, 90 miles north of Perth. There he largely repeated his Kuching experience, becoming so deeply involved in the new Holy Cross cathedral that the interior decoration and stained glass all reflect his preferences.

He was made dean of the cathedral, 1964-66, and administrator of the vast diocese which it served. He then became archdeacon of Carpentaria, Queensland, but the sub-tropical climate did not agree with him and he later returned to England.

He served for two years as vicar of Winterborne Stickland, Dorset, before going to his home county as vicar of Holmside. In retirement he lived briefly in Cornwall, before moving back to Co Durham.

Though he separated from his first wife, they were never divorced. She died in 1980 and four years later he married Mrs Margaret Nunn, who survives him.

Middle Temple

Trurs of Court Stundships 1992-94
Justin Abbott, Oxford Univ; Herman Bonender, Cape Town and Oxford Univ; Caroline Burt, Oxford Univ; Jacqueline Crawford, Cambridge Univ; Nigel Dunning, Cambridge Univ; Andrew Fraser-Uggle, Cambridge Univ; Catherine Goodwin, Oxford Univ; Gordon, Oxford Univ; Simon Henderson, Oxford Univ; James Hutton, Cambridge Univ; James Hutton, Cambridge Univ; James Hutton, Cambridge Univ.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, landscape painter, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1566.
DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet, London, 1599; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, London, 1644; Stephen Collins Foster, song writer, New York, 1864; Wyatt Earp, American marshal, 1929; James Joyce, novelist, Zurich, 1941.

Lord Mustill

The life barony conferred on Sir Michael Mustill, appointment as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary has been granted by the name, style and title of Baron Mustill, of Pateley Bridge in the County of North Yorkshire.

25

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (6708416)
- 9.25 **Shops** (42538482)
- 10.20 **Night to Reply** with Shenea McDonald (r). (Teletext) (s) (94905)
- 11.20 **Business Daily** with Susanah Simons (26706)
- 12.30 **Sesame Street**. The guest is Winoosh Goldberg (14981)
- 1.00 **Film: A Cry from the Streets** (1950, b/w). Well-meaning comedy starring by welfare officer Barbara Murray to help in her work with deprived children in London. Directed by Lewis Gilbert (302597)
- 3.50 **Pete Smith Specialities: Ski Birds** (1939, b/w). Short film charting the history of skiing (821481)
- 4.00 **How Does Your Garden Grow?** The Naylor's garden in Dublin (r). (Teletext) (482)
- 4.30 **Comedian**. Richard Whiteley hosts the words and numbers game (s) (226)
- 5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Gary Byrne hosts Dublin's talk show (5955)
- 6.00 **The Coby Show: Theogates**. The Huxtable family puts Theo (Malcolm Jamal Warner) on trial (r) (619)
- 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross** (s) (771)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** and weather (574145)
- 7.50 **Comment** (662138)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. (Teletext) (s) (8232)
- 8.30 **Desmond's Dobbin**. Razor-sharp comedy set in a barbershop. (Teletext) (s) (1139)



Ten years on: blacking up for Falkland hostilities (9.00pm)

2.00 The Falklands War: The Unnecessary War
● CHOICE: The tenth anniversary of the Falklands conflict is marked by this forthright reevaluation point which claims to upset the orthodox version of several crucial points. It claims to reveal how the real reason British could not negotiate was that the British campaign was marred by rivalry and poor planning and that luck rather than military skill prevented a British disaster. Tonight's episode, tracing the background to hostilities, highlights two other themes. One is how the opposition of the tiny band of Falklanders prevented the British from accepting what would be a sensible solution, of ceding the islands to Argentina under a less-back agreement. The other is that the war would have been unnecessary if the Thatcher government had read the warning signals from Argentina. Not surprisingly the main proponent of the view that the Falkland Islands were never really in jeopardy is a previous Argentinian threat in 1977. (Teletext) (4596)

0.00 thirtyomething: Fighting the Cold. American drama series
 about a group of friends in their thirties (11142690)

0.55 Global Impact: Sider - Forced Entry. The courageous struggle to free a new identity from the shackles of Africa's past ages

2.05pm Tonight with Jonathan Ross (r) (950530)

2.40 The Missing Reel. Drama-documentary which examines claims that Augustin LePrince and not Thomas Edison invented the first moving picture camera (r) (3950172) Ends at 2.00

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SPORTS

U.S. Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Road To Alberta (70110) 8.00
00am World Cup (80255) 10.00m Car On Ice
(1555) 11.00m Lady (75139) 10.00m Indoor
Football (50085) 1.00m Rally Paris-Capetown
(59591) 1.00m Skiing World Cup (29455) 3.00m
00m Rally Paris-Capetown (81465) 5.00m
Rally (787) 6.00m Euroturn Majestic (2349)
00m Boxing (80259) 8.00m Lady Rally Paris-
Capetown (1935) 8.30m Eurosport News
(710) 9.00m Football - Europeans (42752)
00m Kick Boxing (52139) 11.00m Rally Paris-
Capetown (21954) 11.30m Eurosport News
(481)

GREENSPORT
U.S. Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am World Cup (59591) 7.30 WIBC
Basketball (73329) 8.30m Powersports Inter
national (73619) 8.30m Eurotalks (8958)
10.00m 100m African Nations Cup (54077) 11.00m
00m African Nations Cup (54077) 11.00m
00m Football Bowl Games (47058)
00pm International Shopping (67329)
00pm Eurotalks (8958) 1.00m African Nations
cup (49894) 3.30m NFL (400) (4100) 4.00m
Basketball

Colombia World Sport Soccer (45559) 5.00
Hourly Basketball (58195) 5.30m (3951) 6.00m US
Men's Pro Ski Tour 1991/2 (2294) 6.30m
African Nations Cup (88589) 6.30m Best On
U.S. Pro Boxing (25419) 6.30m Search
Football (55810) 10.00m African Nations Cup
(59313) 11.00m Rugby 'A' XFL (55706) 12.00m
00m Soccer (80258)

LIFESTYLE

U.S. Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Greatest American Gameshow
(8075139) 10.50m Lifestyle Coffee Break
(671458) 11.00m Adult-Art-Video (2259)
11.25m Pizza Palace (1812345) 12.00m Sally
Jenny Raphael (451361) 12.30pm What's
Your Cooling (4681920) 12.55m Search For
Tomorrow (8072435) 1.20m Showways
(3808741) 2.30m It's Your Lifestyle (4015056)
2.30m House (4008874) 3.25m Self-
Vision (1110329) 3.50m Lifestyle Tax Break
(6887655) 4.00m Dick Van Dyke Show (1523)
4.00m Dick Van Dyke Show (1523)
(1014716) 5.25m The Tony Randall Show
(5217025) 6.00m The Self-A Vision Shopping
Program (6455037) 9.00m Jubilee Music
Videos (6455037)

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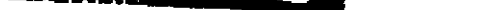
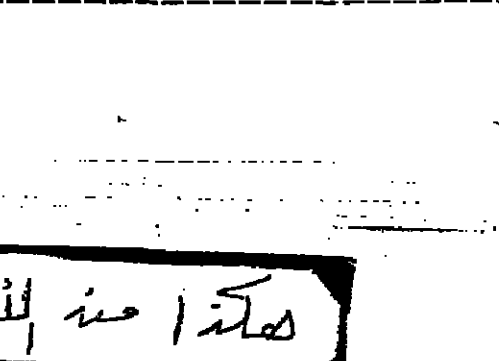
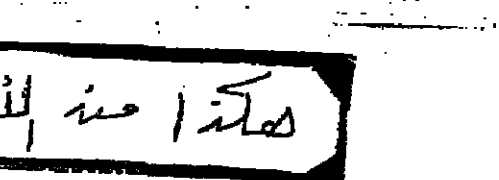
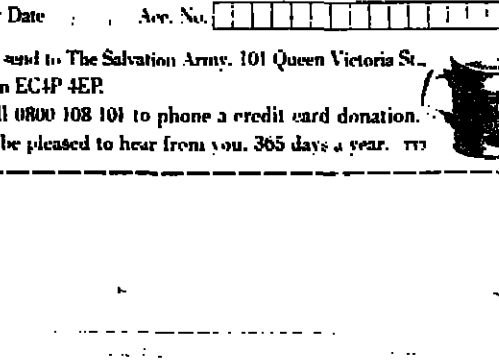
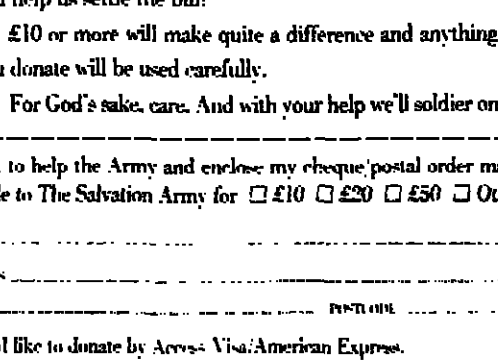
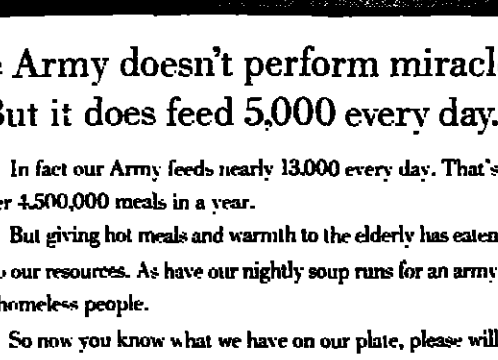

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MAN OF
THE WEEK

Not so
nicely
at the
TSB

They don't come much smoother than Don McCrickard, the silver-haired chief executive of TSB group. Always crisply turned out, the man, who put the slogan "that will do nicely" into American Express speaks in the carefully modulated tones of an international marketing executive. If there is any doubt left, his line in ill-fitting suits and Italian shoes confirm he is not someone who was born or bred in Lombard Street.

He will need every ounce of his softly-spoken charm when TSB reveals its full-year figures on Thursday. After plunging to a £150 million loss at the halfway stage, further bad news is expected. It remains to be seen how well the City takes any forecasts of better times ahead. It is not what Mr McCrickard can have hoped for when he was made chief executive two years ago. But experience is on his side.

Born on Christmas Day 1956, Mr McCrickard cut his business teeth

behind the counter of his parents' corner shop near Brighton. An only child, he was educated at Hove Grammar School, joining the air force at 18 and later taking an economics degree in Malaysia. His first job at Procter & Gamble lasted less than a year before he was recruited into advertising, handling the Volkswagen account worldwide. But it was at American Express that he earned his reputation as a tough guy and the nickname Don McCrickard.

A keen sports fan, Mr McCrickard took up skiing three years ago and works out at his Belgrave mews house with a personal trainer twice a week. Last year, he got married for the second time, to Angela Fuentes, the former head of the British Association of Gastronomes.

Mr McCrickard loves to socialise and has an eclectic list of contacts including Sir Peter Imbert, the police commissioner, and Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary. It is just as well. In the year ahead, he and Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of TSB, could well need a little help from their friends.

JUDI BEVAN

Week ahead, page 22

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8055 (-0.0465)
German mark 2.8386 (-0.0181)
Exchange index 90.4 (-1.0)

Bank of England official base (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1874.2 (-27.2)
FT-SE 100 2477.9 (-26.2)
New York Dow Jones 3199.46 (-2.02)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22381.90 (n/a)

***** SL

Protests grow over sale of Tees trust port assets

BY ROSE TITMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE troubled sale of Britain's trust ports faces fresh difficulties as protests grow over the decision of the Tees & Hartlepool Port Authority to sell its assets to Teesside Holdings.

Maritime Transport Services (MTS), which topped Teesside's £180 million bid by £22 million, has joined members of the rival employee consortium and Teesside members of Parliament in urging the Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to hold an urgent review of the sale.

MTS, which runs the Isle of Grain container terminal in Kent, said it offered more shares for the workforce than the selected bidder. MTS believes it was unreasonable to accept a

lower bid on the basis of Teesside's business plan, which could subsequently be changed.

Mr Rifkind has assured Parliament that the selection process for the sale was properly conducted, and indicated that he was "mindful" to accept the recommendation of the port authority. However, the storm caused by the Tees authority's decision to accept neither the employee offer nor the highest bid is overshadowing efforts to sell three other trust ports: Medway, Tilbury and Clyde.

The decision by British Steel to close the Ravenscraig steel works at Motherwell has compounded the difficulties faced by bidders for the Clyde Port Authority's assets.

Would-be buyers of Clyde were required to file their preliminary bids by Friday. However, the impending loss of business at British

Steel's Hunterston ore importing terminal is expected to sharply reduce Clyde's annual revenues of £12 million. The Clyde port will also lose the business of exporting much of Ravenscraig's output, with an overall reduction in revenues estimated at £4.4 million.

In addition, it has emerged that the transport department is still negotiating with the Port of London Authority (PLA) in an effort to recover the proceeds which will accrue from the sale of Tilbury, Britain's largest trust port.

Because the PLA will remain in existence, the proceeds of the Tilbury sale will go into its coffers. Half the proceeds from the other port sales goes to the Treasury, the balance to the new port company. However, the transport department is apparently seeking to recover the cash from Tilbury by demanding the

subsequent repayment of part of £147 million of government loans to the port.

Tilbury had revenues of £51 million in the year to December 1990, largely from the import and export of forest products and grain, and from cruise liners to the Baltic. Tilbury made an operating profit of £3.7 million in 1990, the first year in which it was freed from the strictures of the dock labour scheme.

Many of the port's 900 employees have indicated their willingness to invest in the management and employee buyout group which is bidding for the port under the leadership of John McNabb, Tilbury's chief executive.

At Medway, MTS is bidding against an employee consortium, but it remains unclear whether any of the other six groups interested in the port have submitted preliminary offers.

Young and
old hit
hardest by
job losses

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

RISING unemployment is hitting the youngest and the oldest workers hardest, according to the latest monthly analysis by The Times of the number of jobless people in Britain.

The markedly different impact of unemployment on the young, and to a lesser extent those aged over 60, comes as ministers are braced for a 30,000 December rise in the 2.5 million jobless in figures to be published on Thursday.

Looking at unadjusted unemployment totals (the actual number of people out of work) broken down by age, unemployment among 18 to 19-year-olds rose 59.2 per cent between April 1990 and October 1991. Over the same period, total unemployment for all ages rose 49.2 per cent.

The increase for workers aged 60 and over was even higher, at 67.8 per cent, but this was pushed up by a 69 per cent increase among men, while the number of 60-plus women losing jobs fell 16.7 per cent over the period. Among the youngest, rising unemployment over the period has hit men harder, with a 62 per cent increase, against 54.6 per cent for 18-19 year-old women. However, more recent analysis shows the position reversing, with the rate of rise for young women growing more quickly than that for young men.

When the next age band, of young people aged 20-24, is taken into account, the rise in unemployment is concentrated even more among them. Over the period since the number out of work started to rise again, unemployment for this age group has gone up 56.4 per cent.

Though the rise in unemployment has been fastest among the young, it is highest as a proportion of the jobless total among 20-to-24 year-olds, who form 21.6 per cent of the unemployed, and among people in their thirties, who form 21 per cent. Britain is at the bottom of the jobs league table, with the worst jobs record of any European Community or Group of Seven country, the Labour party says today. In its analysis of international job comparisons, Labour says that between the second quarters of 1990 and 1991 Britain lost 706,000 jobs while Germany increased jobs by 637,000, Italy by 300,000 and France by 201,000.

Barlow denies boardroom split over decision to withdraw

Pearson pulls out of MGN bid

BY MELINDA WITESTOCK
AND COLIN CAMPBELL

PROSPECTS for the sale of the whole of Mirror Group Newspapers in the near future have receded after the most favoured buyer dropped out of the bidding, blaming massive liabilities associated with the group.

A statement by Pearson, the owner of the Financial Times, which appears on Stock Exchange screens this morning says that after studying "available information on MGN's financial affairs", it had little choice but to drop its acquisition plans.

MGN directors meet their bankers today to ensure that agreements to supply operating funds, which expire this month, are secured until May. Liabilities at MGN are understood to total at least £840 million.

The late Robert Maxwell plundered £400 million from the pension fund and a further £100 million of MGN's investment funds. Debt, meanwhile, stands at £340 million. There are also fears that more liabilities will be discovered in the course of the ongoing investigations by the Serious Fraud Office.

Pearson, which announced its plans to bid for the six MGN titles a month ago, has become the second prospective buyer to pull out, blaming "the numbers". Tiny Rowland's Lorrho, owner of the Observer, dropped out of the race two weeks after entering it, blaming its decision on "the black hole".

Pearson's decision, taken at a board meeting on Friday, leaves the management buy-out, led by Richard Stott,



Turning his back on the Daily Mirror: Frank Barlow, head of Pearson, which withdrew from bidding after studying MGN's finances

editor of the Daily Mirror, and backed by Electra, the venture capitalists, with no apparent competition.

A spokesman for the MBO said the announcement of Pearson's pullout was "not entirely unexpected". He added: "We believe it to be the right decision for Pearson, and remain confident that the right conclusion for the Daily Mirror is a management buyout. That view seems to be gaining ground".

Pearson might be tempted back if the administrators wrote off a significant part of the liabilities and asked them back. It is understood that Pearson became highly frus-

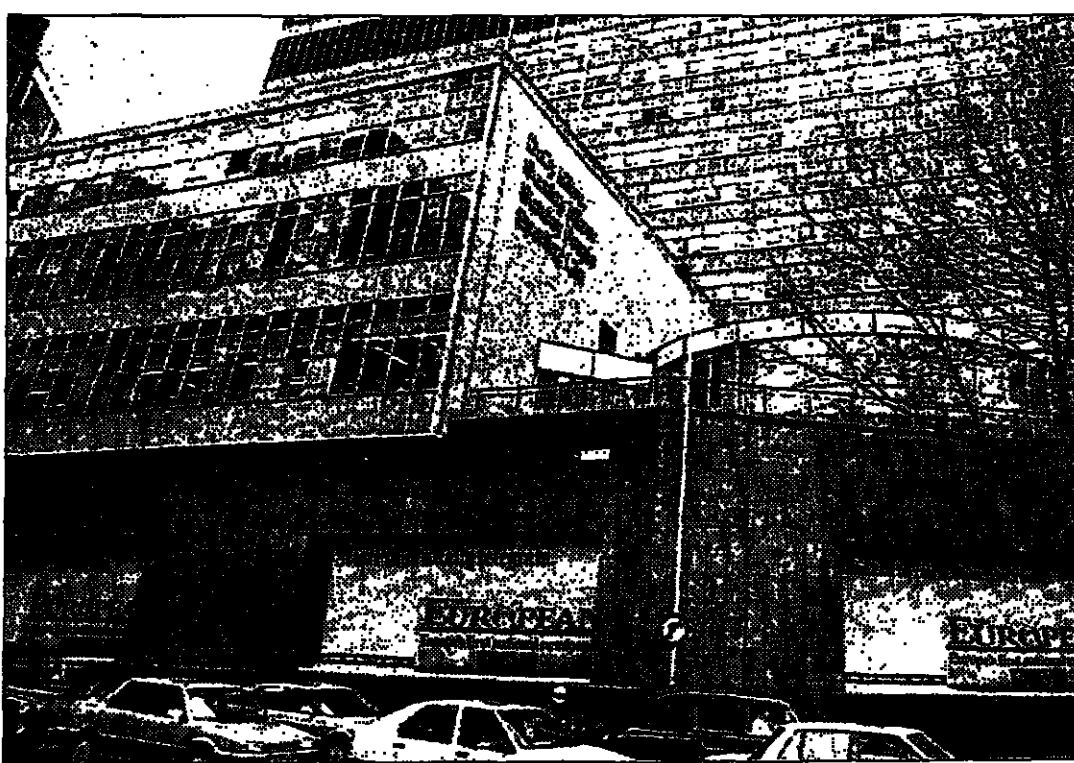
trated in its efforts to prise information out of Arthur Andersen, administrator to the private Maxwell family businesses. Pearson approached Ernest Burroughs, the chairman of MGN, and asked if Lazarus, its merchant bank, could be furnished with the numbers direct. The answer was yes and Pearson did not like what it found.

Frank Barlow, Pearson's managing director, said yesterday: "In light of the information now available, we have decided not to pursue the acquisition. It looks like there will be no more solid information until MGN accounts are published at the

end of February or early March. That would have left us hanging about for a long time."

Mr Barlow strongly denied speculation that Lord Blakenham, Pearson's chairman, and James Joll, its finance director, had intervened to stop the deal. Several reports have suggested there was a boardroom split between Mr Barlow and Lord Blakenham, but yesterday Mr Barlow dismissed it as "pure twaddle". He said: "I was the one who proposed we should not carry on. The liabilities are too great, and still unknown."

Pearson said it made its



Vestey debt will
be rescheduled

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

UNION International, the Vestey family-owned Dewhurst butchers to agro-business chain, should win breathing space from its lenders this week when debts totalling £350 million are formally rescheduled.

Negotiations between Union and a nine-bank steering group that started last October, when group debts totalled £423 million, have been crystallised. The agreement is understood to involve a three-year standstill on outstanding debt, and a fresh capital injection from the Vestey family.

The debt breakthrough will give Terry Robinson, who was appointed to the new post

of chief executive last Tuesday, a stronger platform from which to implement urgently needed financial restructuring plans.

Union made profits of £12.5 million in the 1990 financial year, but because of heavy property write-downs and adverse currency movements is likely to have plunged into losses in 1991.

The nine-bank steering group, led by Lloyds, found that though Union was rich in assets, the flow of profits was uneven. The alternative to debt rescheduling might have been extensive asset sales among the 1,000 Dewhurst butchers' shops and other worldwide operations.

EC sees chance of
April Gatt deal

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community's demand for "substantial improvements and essential modifications" to a draft agreement on freer world trade is intended to cover a climbdown over the key issue of agricultural support, according to trade officials.

Trade and farm ministers agreed in Brussels on the call for modifications to the draft put forward before Christmas by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. But the ministers also called for a "rapid conclusion" to the round. Comments from Ray MacSharry, the agriculture commissioner, suggested Mr Dunkel's mid-April dead-

line for conclusion is considered by the commission to be achievable.

The softer EC stance reflects mounting pressure by an alliance around Britain and Germany that believes the confidence and growth a Gatt accord will fuel far outweighs any benefits from continuing to block progress on farm subsidies. Mr Dunkel said on Friday he does not see much scope for changing his draft without risking the whole package. President Bush is expected to seek the political and economic benefits of a world trade accord.

Leading article, page 15
Promoting benefits, page 23

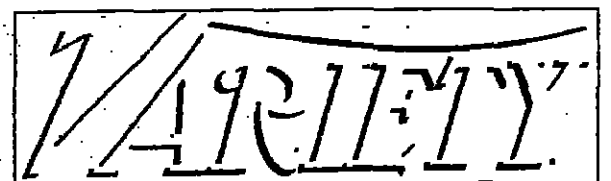
Over-hyped, overwritten, over here

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

A EUROPEAN future is being planned for Variety, America's trade bible of the entertainment industry, known best for its brusque, almost untranslatable, headlines. However, those at next month's Berlin Film Festival, where a new section of the paper for the continent will be launched, may have some difficulty with streamers like "Six Nix Hix Pix".

Variety Europe will start as a special insert for the 35,000 circulation weekly edition, but Peter Bart, the editorial director, says it is expected to grow into a separate European publication. An Asian edition is also planned.

Mr Bart said: "Europe is becoming a much more im-



Heading for Europe: Variety to launch in Berlin

portant part of the world entertainment industry and we must meet that." It is estimated that the income generated by the entertainment industry will rise from \$200 billion now to \$377 billion by the end of the decade. Two out of every three dollars of the increase will be generated outside America.

Variety, bought by Reed International in 1987, believes the new section will attract 32,000 new readers within two years. Variety claims each magazine has between

three and four readers, roughly double the industry average, to make a readership of 118,000.

Analysts say that apart from a lack of real competition, readers are attracted by the magazine's idiosyncratic style and use of language, described by Mr Bart as slangy — a cross between English and slang.

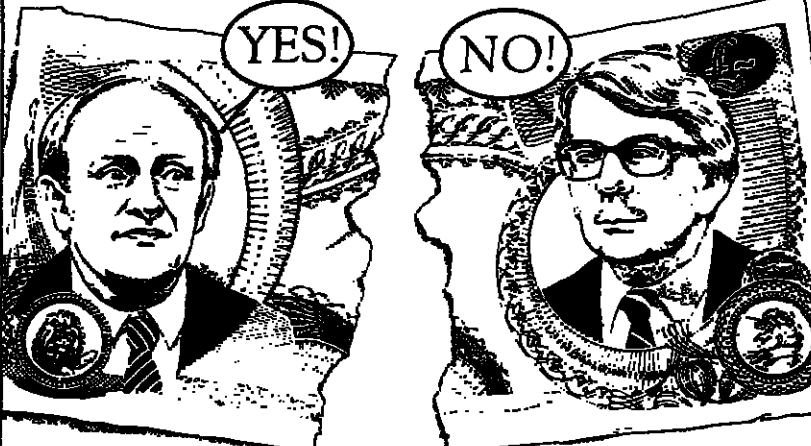
Among its most famous headlines, "Six Nix Hix Pix" ran over a story reporting how audiences in suburban and rural areas were reject-

ing some of the movie blockbusters of the time. When Warner Brothers agreed a merger with Time magazines for almost \$14 billion, the front page headline read: "There's no Bigness like Show Bigness".

Above the lead story of the \$6.2 billion purchase of MCA and Universal studios by Matsushita Electric Industrial Company of Japan, ran the banner headline in untranslated Japanese "Buyer Beware".

Advertising revenue rose 14 per cent last year, when the recession cut income at other magazines, forcing some to close. At 2,000, its UK circulation is the largest single market in Europe, where circulation totals 5,000. The magazine has been available in Britain since 1913.

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THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Guidelines set for top pay awards

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

COMPANIES should show that due regard is given to shareholders' and employees' interests and the company's commercial and financial health when setting senior executives' pay rises, according to guidelines published today on behalf of non-executive company directors.

The role of non-executive directors has come under scrutiny in recent arguments over pay rises given to senior managers, especially those in newly privatised companies.

ProNed, which promotes the work of non-executive directors, describes the guidelines over top pay in the private sector as "hard-hitting".

Chambers urge tax reforms

By Our Industrial Editor

THE government should reform advance corporation tax in the Budget, according to the chambers of commerce.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce recommends that the £8,500 threshold as a base for taxable expenses should be raised to the same level as the higher rate tax threshold.

The association also calls for the removal of the 25 per cent restriction on the amount of taxable profits that can be set against advance corporation tax and urges the abolition of inheritance tax.

□ The Confederation of British Industry is to investigate ways of speeding up and improving planning decisions.

Following a survey last month of the top 100 companies, which showed that 86 per cent have a remuneration committee for top rises, but that only 56 per cent of those committees were made up of non-executive directors. ProNed says all companies should have such committees to set pay and that they should be made up only of independent non-executives.

Details of the committees' pay policies, including the separation of salary and bonus elements of remuneration packages, and an explanation of the principles on which performance payments or bonuses are made, should be published in company annual reports.

ProNed says: "Securing the legitimacy of the awards given to Britain's top businessmen is essential if the boards of companies listed on the London Stock Exchange are to command respect."

Meanwhile, the Campaign for Work pressure group in a report says that more closely co-ordinated pay bargaining is possible within Britain's decentralised private sector economy without the full synchronisation of pay setting.

The group, together with some academics, Labour and trade union leaders, and with the interest of senior government figures, is pressing for greater co-ordination of pay in Britain. Some believe such co-ordination would help cut unemployment.

The report says that a number of elements of pay setting, including the going rate, consultation between companies and the desire of pay setters not to be knowingly drifting of others, all run with the grain of the proposal for greater pay co-ordination.

Defining the lead role at Ratners

James McAdam must prove he is running the show at Ratners to find City favour, says Gillian Bowditch

As Ratners Group starts 1992 with two executives at the helm, the City is speculating what Gerald Ratner's role will be in the company that bears his name.

The revelations last week that the group would incur a £72 million loss in the current year, including £45 million of exceptional charges, were interpreted by the City as "kitchen sink" accounting. James McAdam, the new chairman, will start the financial year on February 2 with a clean slate, they say.

Ratners Group's American preference shareholders will learn on Wednesday whether or not they will receive the dividend payment due on their shares. The group, which has said it will pay no dividend on the ordinary shares, is widely expected to waive the payment.

However, it is Mr Ratner's role in the company, which was once his family business, that is concentrating the minds of analysts. To satisfy the institutional shareholders, Mr McAdam will have to prove he is at the helm. That much he knows.

Of his new job, he says: "It's going to be pretty demanding, time wise. I will be in here every day. I will be tackling the financial issues, looking at the organisation and the structure. That will leave Gerald much freer to do what he is good at — running the commercial side of the business."

Mr McAdam admits to knowing nothing about the jewellery market but is at pains to point out his retailing experience, which includes forming Country Casuals and being involved with the management of Jaeger for Coats Vivalda.

The City will also want to see a frank approach to the



Birds of a feather: James McAdam, the new group chairman, is likely to have Gerald Ratner, the chief executive, constantly on his shoulder at Ratners

presentation of future accounts. Mr McAdam said: "We want to be totally up front, and it is one of the things I'm very comfortable with. I think Ratners has handled its financial affairs very responsibly and uses its auditors and advisers properly. Its problem is a trading problem. I have no underlying worry about the integrity of the business."

He refuses to give a breakdown of the £45 million of exceptional items except to say that much of the sum is due to provisions. With regard to the group's bankers, he says: "Discussions are

being held with the banks. I look forward to ongoing discussions. I've seen the banks. I have talked to them and I am happy that I will get their co-operation."

Where refinancing is concerned, the group appears to be comfortable within its facilities, at least until the autumn. Mr McAdam said: "We have facilities of about £450 million. Our needs depend on Christmas trade. The peak cash requirement is end of October. The Euro-convertible has been provided for. Beyond that, I can't say. We

have no need for more finance in the short term."

Mr McAdam believes morale is good. He dismisses the gaffe made by Mr Ratner at the Institute of Directors conference in April as unimportant. "There has been so much nonsense talked about the IOD speech. The recession is what has affected this business. The speech may have affected the Ratners stores but that has been minimal. I don't think it has affected the US or other parts of the business. The coverage it received has been unfair to the organisation and unfair to the individual."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Survey points to more economic gloom

BUSINESS confidence in Britain has started the new year with a whimper, pointing to further gloom in the short term and contradicting the government's hopes of an economic recovery. A survey by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company, shows that confidence has continued to fall since September. Six out of ten of the 1,800 company managing directors surveyed see no improvement in either sales or new orders, while eight out of ten will either be not recruiting staff or shedding them. Although the outlook for profits has improved, six out of ten still see no improvement in the short term. Philip Mellor, D&B's marketing manager, said: "Expectations for new sales and orders are still way below the levels of July 1990, at the onset of recession."

Gold-back bonds plan

THE former Soviet Union asked Japanese securities firms to underwrite and help it float gold-back bonds on the Tokyo and European financial markets, according to *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a Tokyo newspaper. Enquiries were expected to be brought up again now that the Commonwealth of Independent States had emerged to link former Soviet republics. The proposed issuance of bonds, which can be redeemed for gold or cash, is designed to secure hard currency while preventing a further outflow of gold reserves from the former superpower, the world's third largest gold producer.

Cluff cash call closes

CLUFF Resources' 11-for-20 rights issue at 34p a share to raise £8.3 million towards developing the Ayanfuri open pit gold mine in Ghana closes at 3 pm today. Cluff traded at 29p on Friday, and the take-up level is expected by tomorrow. The issue is underwritten by Kleinwort Benson Securities. Algy Cluff, chairman, said at the time of the November rights announcement that the payback period was expected to be 2.35 years, at a gold price of \$350 an ounce, and that average operating costs were likely to be \$169 an ounce.

Young leads trade visit

SIR George Young, the housing and planning minister, is leading a team of contractors, developers and planning specialists, to Germany this month in a determined attempt to win a large slice of the multi-billion pound reconstruction programme in what was East Germany. The ten-strong delegation, which will include Bovis, Laing Management, Wimpey, Ove Arup and Allott Lomax, the consultants, the Regalian group of companies and Stanhope Properties, will have its first meeting in Bonn on January 21.

Oil find is 'largest'

THE Philippine government and an American oil exploration company have located what they describe as the largest oil find in the South East Asian country. Commercial operations could begin in May. Alcorn International says a third well at the West Linapacan site off the western island of Palawan has produced 4,500 barrels a day. Alcorn expects between 15 and 20,000 bpd at three wells if operations start in May or June. The site was said to hold up to 109 million barrels and the reserve could last up to 20 years.

Tebbit to present awards

NORMAN Tebbit, the former trade and industry secretary and Conservative party chairman, has agreed to present prizes to winners of the 1991 Coopers Deloitte Plc awards for smaller companies, sponsored in association with *The Times*.

Mr Tebbit will present the awards at a gala dinner at the Grosvenor House hotel in London on March 19.

The awards cover fully listed companies as well as those whose shares trade on the Unlisted Securities Market. They are open to companies with a market capitalisation of up to £185 million, will be presented in six categories — best performing share; best annual report; analyst of the year; new company of the year; for companies that went public in 1991; entrepreneur of the year; and company of the year.

Votes may now be cast in all categories except best performing share. A shortlist will be produced from which winners will be selected by a voting panel. The closing date is February 15.

Ipeco managing to sit comfortably

THE airline industry, severely shaken by a sharp downturn in business because of the Gulf war, gradually regained confidence in the final months of 1991, although ambitions for growth have been scaled down until the recession loosens its grip.

New aircraft development and fleet upgrades have resumed and orders are again being placed with suppliers. Today, Ipeco Holdings, manufacturer of aviation and defence products, is expected to announce a contract to supply flight deck seats for the new Boeing 777.

Ipeco estimates the contract is worth \$14 million. The company, which is based at Southend, is one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of aircraft crew seats.

The Boeing contract will increase interest in the company's financial results for the year to December, when pre-tax profits are expected to remain almost unchanged at

£3.4 million, against the £3.5 million made in 1990. At the interim stage, there was an 11 per cent fall in profits but the dividend was maintained at 1.2p a share. Analysts also expect the final dividend to be at least maintained at 2p, making an unchanged total of 3.2p for the year.

The aerospace division, which includes Ipeco Europe, the seat maker, has been largely unaffected by the difficulties of the airline industry. Earlier in the year, when the industry was viewed as being in deep trouble, Ipeco landed contracts from Saab and McDonnell Douglas. After the conclusion of the Gulf war, Ipeco's shares, which had traded unchanged at 55p in the opening eight weeks of the year, were re-rated and have since been steady at about 75p in a tight market. The prospective p/e of 9.25 is not demanding and suggests further growth.

MARTIN BARROW

The Times sponsors MBA fair

AN INCREASING number of graduates are turning to postgraduate qualifications to enhance their prospects, once the upturn in the economy has materialised. One such option is the master of business administration (MBA) degree.

The *Times* is sponsoring the 1992 MBA fair at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London, on February 6 and 7. This event, now in its second year, is organised by the London University careers advisory service with the association of MBAs. It has already attracted bookings from 39 business schools, including 20 from the United Kingdom, 12 from continental Europe and seven from America, the home of the MBA.

The MBA is seen as the professional qualification for those wishing to improve their employment or promotion prospects, change career direction, or move into consultancy work. For those already qualified and with work experience as accountants, lawyers or engineers, the course provides an essential background for a move into business-related areas. For more information call the free hotline 0800 252183

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Asda could slump to just £7.5m

ARCHIE Norman, former Kingfisher finance director, who has barely spent a month at the helm of Asda Group, is expected to unveil gloomy first half figures when the troubled supermarket group reports on Wednesday. Asda's interim pre-tax profits are expected to slump to £7.5 million (£60.8 million), says Paul Smiddy, at Kleinwort Benson. Market forecasts range from profits of £30 million to losses of £15 million. An interim dividend of 1.25p (1.85p) was promised by the debt-laden group at the time of last autumn's deeply-discounted £357 million rights issue.

The second quarter was poor for the industry, but Asda fared worse than others. In addition, fresh asset writedowns, largely on a declining property market, may accompany the figures.

The shares have declined to 28p on Friday, against last year's high of 123p and the 35p rights price.

TODAY

A healthy advance in first-half profits is expected at Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate headed by Greg



Slimmer profits menu: Archie Norman, of Asda

Hutchings and recently included in the FT-SE 100.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects £44 million pre-tax profits, up from £31.1 million last time. P&D predicts earnings per share of 9p (8.2p) and an interim dividend of 3.3p (2.8p).

Philip Morris, of Smith New Court, expects final pre-tax profits at Evode Group, the adhesives and industrial coatings company, to slump to £6.5 million from £15.2 million and the final dividend to 0.22p (4.64p). Smith New Court forecasts interim pre-tax profits of £7.75 million (£10.6 million) at Ellis & Everard, the chemicals company. The interim dividend should be held at 2.25p.

Interim: Dalepak Foods, Ellis & Everard, Excelsior Group, Fletcher King, Real Time Control, Tomkins. Final: Aukett Associates, Evode Group, Hawin, Lowe (Robert H). Economic statistics: Credit business (November); retail sales (November — final).

TOMORROW

Stakis, the debt-laden Scottish hotels-to-leisure group, chaired by Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor, is likely to disclose £46.6 million final pre-tax losses of (£30.6 million profit) after property writedowns and restructuring costs, according to Country NatWest WoodMac. The dividend is forecast to be halved to 1.35p (2.7p). Eurotherm International, the industrial process con-



£13.8 million (£14 million). A dividend of 2.81p (2.56p) is predicted. Net debt should have been cut to about £2 million (£10 million).

Interim: Asda Group, City of Oxford Investment Trust, Wyke Group, Zetters Group. Final: Colson's, First Leisure Corp, First Philippine Investment Trust, Group Development Capital Trust, London Scottish Bank, Southern Business Group. Economic statistics: Quarterly analysis of bank advances (September-November); details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

THURSDAY

Bad debt provisions at Hill Samuel, the merchant banking section of TSB Group, are expected to pass £400 million for the year — affected by the group's exposure to Brent Walker — and will dominate the final results.

The banking group is expected to plunge to a pre-tax loss of £60 million, against a profit of £312 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from losses of £40 million to £70 million. However, a maintained dividend of 6.4p is predicted.

Interim: Hampson Industries, Marheath, Stanley Leisure Organisation. Final: Devonport Vernon, Lookers, Microgen Holdings, Selective Assets Trust, TSB Group. Economic statistics: Institutional investment (third quarter); labour market statistics (December — provisional); average earnings index (November — provisional); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes; provisional figures of vehicle production (December).

FRIDAY

Interim: Abtrust Scotland Investment Co, Lazard Select Investment Trust, Peel Holdings, Sutcliffe Gosnell. Final: Elandsand Gold Mining, Kurick, LPA Industries, St Andrew Trust, South African Land & Exploration, Vast Rente Extension & Mining, Western Deep Levels. Economic statistics: Public sector borrowing requirement (December); retail prices index and tax and price index (December).

PHILIP PANGALOS

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Changing the ERM game

As the US cavalry arrived just in time to save the pound, or at least Britain's reserves? Europe was certainly caught on the hop by Thursday's leap in the lagging dollar. But that is how speculative markets make a sharp turn, as dealers have to close positions in a hurry. President Bush's economic harvest in Tokyo was more excuse than cause for a change of sentiment and Friday's American job figures, greeted as cause for a further upturn, could as easily be read the other way. A bevy of other December statistics will test any nascent dollar recovery this week. For several weeks, however, the ingredients have been assembling for a turn, at some stage, in the dollar's relationship to the mark, if not to the yen.

After a long slide, the last fall and rise in American and German interest rates pushed the dollar back to its DM1.5 level of a year ago, if not yet to the record February low of DM1.45, which will surely be tested if last week's rally fails. At that time, America's economy was falling into its long recession and unification was turbocharging Germany's boom. Today, things look different. American sales and output are trying, splutteringly, to turn up. Germany is running out of puff. The interest rate curve suggests short-term rates have reached a peak in Germany. Since it is not headed for a sustained tight-money Reaganomic boom, America's rates must be near rock bottom.

That logic could be on hold for some time, however. Helmut Schlesinger's transitional Bundesbank council, displaying an unsavory staccato streak, is trumpeting its determination to keep rates high for the foreseeable future. Nothing in America's "recovery" is yet out of character with an economy merely bumping along the bottom. No one can yet be sure, therefore, that this is really the dollar's turning point.

The Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England must certainly hope the US cavalry keeps charging. In market psychology, that would be a much more diverting game than "get the pound", pushing sterling's awkward weakness into the background. Thursday's resulting technical discomfort for sterling in the ERM need not last. If a dollar trend is established, it will imply specific weakening of the mark within the ERM, where the last rate rise left it well above its central rates. The mark makes up 30 per cent of the ecu, so a fall should greatly ease the underlying weakness of the pound, now 3.2 per cent below its central ecu rate against 2.2 per cent at the previous low in December 1990.

That is not the Governor's pressing problem. Sterling and the peseta, the two newcomers learning the ropes in the ERM, are causing each other trouble at opposite extremes of their wide bands. Sterling breached its peseta limit twice last week. If the problem can be limited to the peseta, however, targeted for even compulsory Bank of England intervention, the difference is pretty equally shared. Spain's economy is high short-term interest rates, still about 12.5 per cent. They have by now achieved all they will, but the country's stubborn inflation, and must fall soon. Britain, having entered sterling into the club at an artificially high rate, must accept the consequence that, with inflation no longer falling, interest rates can make no further contribution to recovery, without devaluation. The government has ruled that out, to bolster confidence, but has not admitted the implication: if a senseless rise in interest rates is to be avoided, the Chancellor should state with equal public flourish that he will not cut rates again before sterling has recovered its central ecu rate — hoping the mark will achieve much of that for him.

Promoting economic benefit of a new trade agreement

Colin Narbrough finds that the man who chaired Gatt talks for five years knows the passion they can arouse

With the end-game of the world trade talks set to commence after more than five years of negotiations largely out of the public eye, Arthur Dunkel, the Swiss director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, thinks it is time for governments to draw public attention to the economic impact of a successful accord.

The career trade diplomat, who has chaired the talks throughout, has bitter experience of what fears about the loss of protection can do. He has had to face a mob of angry Swiss farmers trying to force the door of the Gatt headquarters in Geneva. Usually peaceful Switzerland last week saw thousands of protesting farmers on the streets, voicing alarm that the Gatt round would spell the death of Alpine agriculture.

Elsewhere, the round would appear too imperceptible for public consumption. Yet liberalised trade in agricultural goods, services and intellectual property, the new ground being broken, inevitably means a shift of advantage and disadvantage in international trade. Nor will further reduction of tariffs on manufactured goods leave trading patterns unaffected.

At the political level, the round has proved remarkably easy to put on the back burner, even though it is accepted that it would give a welcome "vitamin shot" to an ailing world economy. Oddly, given the London economic summit's commitment in July to give the Uruguay round top priority, the deadline for conclusion by the end of 1991, already a year overdue, was allowed to slip once more.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Dunkel, who on Friday set mid-April as the new target, made it clear he could not imagine that the politicians would let the round fail. He expects today's meeting of the chief negotiators to give formal blessing to "fast-forwarding" the round on the basis of his 450-page draft text, even if some participants, primarily the European Community, seek to mask their rejection of proposals for agricultural trade with the fig-leaf of a demand for "sub-



Bitter experience: Arthur Dunkel has had to face an angry mob of Swiss farmers

stantial and essential modifications".

That wording, which emerged from the Brussels meeting of European Community farm and trade ministers on Saturday, has a softer tone than the flat rejection ministers issued after their last meeting. Despite his natural caution, Mr Dunkel imposed his own compromise on the farm issue in the draft text, drawing fierce attack from Brussels and Paris that he was too biased in the Americans' favour. The transatlantic row over agricultural support has been the main obstacle throughout the round.

With no sign that the EC or America were closing the gap, Mr Dunkel made cuts in budget spending on subsidies and tonnage, and the inclusion of direct payments to

farmers to compensate them for subsidy cuts in the reduction process.

Although far short of the cuts of up to 90 per cent Washington had initially demanded, the Dunkel paper was condemned by Louis Mermaz, the French farm minister, as leading to "ruin" in the European farming industry. Washington's response to the Dunkel paper is not clear, but Carla Hills, the combative American trade representative, appears to be trying to highlight the success the administration is having in opening markets other than the Japanese car market.

Given the boost to growth and political popularity President Bush needs from a suc-

cessful Gatt accord, Mr Dunkel expects Mrs Hills will have a mandate to be flexible. With Japan squared by President Bush, he believes an isolated EC would not resist a deal.

Mr Dunkel considers the medicine prescribed for agriculture rather gentle. "Given that the round has taken five years, the ten-year period for phasing in changes does not seem too long," he noted.

In agriculture, the draft text does not represent a revolution but an evolution. "He had always expected agriculture to be the 'most difficult to take forward' and is clearly encouraged by the movement that has occurred since last February, when he had nothing to show in this area. A key problem for him has been trying to arbitrate between two sides unsure of their own position, a criticism mainly intended for the EC. He accepts that he took a risk when presenting his draft package in December, but thinks governments involved have a duty to coming generations to ensure a smooth working trading system."

Convinced President Bush wants an early agreement, and needs it all the more after his troubled Pacific tour, Mr Dunkel said: "We are practically beyond the point of no return. Even if the round was to suffer an 'accident' at this late stage, he believes governments would soon want to try again to address the trade issue."

Shifting economic power meant no single participant at the Gatt talks could act as the locomotive for trade liberalisation, as the Americans had in the past. Mr Dunkel said America, still the biggest economy, needed an instrument to look after its interests. The danger, otherwise, is that the Americans will seek to make their own arrangements, as they have with Japan. If the Uruguay round were agreed, there would be no longer be any need for Washington to go its own way. The Gatt's role as global watchdog for free and fair trade would come to the fore. "Acceptance of this package would be a great step forward in multi-lateralism."

In Pole position for mass sell-off

Poland's government is likely to foster mass privatisation, according to Tomasz Gruszecki, the new Polish privatisation minister, but reservations over the speed of economic reform will make it more difficult for foreign companies to make direct acquisitions.

The centre-right government under prime minister Jan Olszewski is about to move from a dual strategy of privatisation, with mass privatisation alongside direct sales to foreign companies, in favour of mass privatisation, which is regarded as politically more acceptable. This may lead potential western investors to look elsewhere in eastern Europe. The change in emphasis comes amid increased pressure in Poland to prevent asset sales "on the cheap" to foreigners and symptoms of reform fatigue.

As an adviser to the Polish government, Jan Ledochowski, director of SG Warburg, the British merchant bank, defended this strategy on political grounds, saying it represented a dislike for centrally planned decisions. It also reflected a degree of xenophobia, he conceded, while adding that "one should not plan the future of Poland on the basis of direct foreign investment". He said: "The argument is not whether Poland should be like America but how quickly it will be like America."

The first stage of mass privatisation will include 200 companies. Under the scheme, western fund managers are bidding to manage investment funds that will control the companies. The deadline for the bids is next month. Initially, the funds will be owned by the state, but ownership will later pass to Polish citizens. The funds will own 60 per cent of the companies under management, a further 30 per cent will be retained by the state and the last 10 per cent will be owned by the management.

Foreign investment would be possible once the funds restructure the companies under management and begin to sell off individual companies. WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, European Business Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Manley-Cooper back in London

A LIVELY homecoming is in store for Justin Manley-Cooper, one of the City's rising stars, who flew in to London last week after a three-and-a-half year spell in the New York offices of County NatWest. Manley-Cooper, aged 31, set up County's Australian and Hong Kong desks — the latter was shut down early last year — and was broking Australian shares in London before crossing the Atlantic. "I am now looking for somewhere to live," says Manley-Cooper, who spent eight years on the asset management team at Morgan Grenfell prior to joining County in 1988 and has been given a month or so to settle down before starting work once more. His family has a proud place in British military folklore. His father, Norman, was one of the crew of the Swordfish squadron which attacked and crippled the German battleship Bismarck on May 26 1941.

Tied up

CITY people are still reeling from the bicentenary celebrations of Charles Stanley, one of Britain's largest private client stockbrokers, which invited about 750 guests to a bash at Armory House, City Road, on Thursday evening. The revellers were each given a navy blue tie sporting a series of zig-zags, which bear more than a passing resemblance to the FT-SE 100 index on a bad day. "It's actually going up," insists David Howard, the managing director and son of Sir



"For next Christmas I'd like a nice new for sale sign"

Edward Howard, a former Lord Mayor of London and chairman of the company. The guests included Brian Winterlood, of Winterlood Securities, who is looking tanned and fit after a trip to Zimbabwe during which he and his wife, Doreen, managed to flip their raft while tackling the rapids on the Zambezi River. Charles Stanley's archives include a share certificate of May 1889, in the name of Barney Barnato, founder of De Beers, who was lost at sea, while returning to England, in almost the same spot as Robert Maxwell.

Roux on the menu

REGULAR diners at James Capel's leafy offices on Bevis Marks will be pleased to learn that the firm has gone upmarket. It has hired Roux Restaurants, part of Albert and Michel Roux's gastronomic empire, to provide catering, and hence takes its place alongside Rothschild Asset Management as well as

its old rival, Kleinwort Benson, which signed them up six years ago. The Roux brothers, who in 1967 opened Le Gavroche in London's Mayfair — the first restaurant in Britain to receive three Michelin stars — and own The Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire, along with several City haunts, must be only too pleased with their latest venture. The sad news is that Capel made all its in-house catering staff redundant just after Christmas.

Close shaves

WITH three months to go before Euro Disney, the giant theme park east of Paris, is due to open its doors, the Disney corporation seems to be having a hard time finding enough staff. Disney has hired an employment agency in London to recruit 250 staff and has brought in something "large, pink and inflatable" in east London in the hope of appealing to sunny and cheerful locals. The job descriptions are a little puzzling, since Disney is apparently insisting staff should have "no facial hair". Quite how Snow White will react to seven unshaven dwarfs remains to be seen.

That's showbiz

NEARLY 800 underprivileged children had a fun time at Coopers & Lybrand De la Joie's annual pantomime last week. Directing the show, however, was another matter. The man chosen for the task, Stephen O'Sullivan, an oil and gas economist with the firm, was left tearing his hair in dismay after three partners dropped out, because of overwork, and Julian Bates, one of

the stars, announced he was defecting to Andersen Consulting, one of Coopers' old rivals. O'Sullivan promptly took on the role of Professor Jones in the production of *All Baba and the Forty Thieves*, and survived the experience — despite crashing in to the set on one occasion. "I almost brought the house down," says O'Sullivan, aged 31, who is a former oil trader with BP and Total.

RED faces at the International Petroleum Exchange, which sent out an invitation to a cocktail party in honour of a "Soviet" delegation. It has now rushed out a second invitation to the guests as "Russian" and including roast beef on the menu. But will the Russians eat it?

Give us a job

WHAT is going on in the world of accountancy? Asked to name their ideal gift over the festive season, trainee accountants, who only a year ago had been happy to claim BMWs, Porsches and Ferraris, said they would now be far happier with a plain, simple mountain bike. Others made world peace a priority, in a quiz in *Pass Magazine*, along with requests for personal computers and even one or two for Kim Basinger — preferably clad in a Batman suit. "It's a sign of the culture shock which has hit the profession over the last year," says Ken Robson, of Harrison Willis, the financial recruitment consultant that commissioned the survey. But the top reply should surprise no one. Most of them wanted nothing more than a job.

JON ASHWORTH

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There will be one further phase to the move, full details of which will also be published here.

MORGAN STANLEY

January 13, 1992

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| 15 | Yorkshire TV | Leisure | 1.00 |
| 16 | Barnes & Bly | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 17 | BAT | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 18 | Laporte | Chemicals | 1.00 |
| 19 | Jardine Math | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 20 | Stim Bar | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 21 | Vale | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 22 | Providence | Chemicals | 1.00 |
| 23 | Barr (AG) | Food | 1.00 |
| 24 | Eurocom Pk | Newspaper | 1.00 |
| 25 | Bowmer | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 26 | MTL Inc | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 27 | Devenish (AI) | Food | 1.00 |
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| 29 | Ronck | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 30 | Waddington (I) | Paper | 1.00 |
| 31 | Shorehouse | Drugs | 1.00 |
| 32 | Power Corp | Property | 1.00 |
| 33 | BTP | Chemicals | 1.00 |
| 34 | Sanderson Etc | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 35 | Burill | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 36 | Wash Water | Water | 1.00 |
| 37 | Norden Pack | Food | 1.00 |
| 38 | Angill | Food | 1.00 |
| 39 | Pharm-Me | Industrial | 1.00 |
| 40 | Boddington | Food | 1.00 |
| 41 | App Wiggins | Paper | 1.00 |
| 42 | Ulster | Oil | 1.00 |
| 43 | Usher TV | Leisure | 1.00 |

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT (Weekly total)

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Platinum prize of £4,000 is Mrs Ann King, of Moretonhamstead, near Newton Abbott, Devon.

Mid cap (millions) Company Price P/E

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Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end January 24. Settlement day January 27. Settlement day February 3. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Portfolio

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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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Academics fear that switching teacher training to schools could lead to cutbacks, says John O'Leary

Teachers trained on the cheap?

Few education reforms have been as well trailed as those proposed by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, for teacher training. Education departments saw the switch from colleges to schools coming months, if not years, ago.

The result has been the gradual spread of school-based courses for graduates going into teaching, acknowledged in the inspectorate report that accompanied Mr Clarke's speech to the North of England education conference.

The principle of training teachers in schools has been widely accepted. What took the academics by surprise in Mr Clarke's announcement was the scale and speed of the switch he proposed. The 80 per cent minimum suggested for the proportion of students' time to be spent in schools is greater than that achieved by the most enthusiastic proponents of school-based training. The financial implications, combined with the loss of ultimate responsibility for the students, could threaten the existence of some departments.

Students at Oxford and Sussex universities, regarded as the model for school-based training, spend two-thirds of their time in schools. Both departments see educational and financial drawbacks to meeting the new requirements.

The former teacher training colleges, long accused of championing the trendy teaching methods many blame for inadequate educational standards, will be largely unaffected by the changes. Most concentrate on the Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, which is not part of the reform package. Mr Clarke's proposals cover only the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for graduates going into secondary schools, which is run mainly in universities and polytechnics.

Unless there are unexpected changes as a result of the consultation, selected schools will

assume most of the responsibility for training these students within three years. Mentors appointed by headteachers would look after students, assessing their performance at the end of a course partly designed by the schools. College-based parts of courses will have to be relevant to classroom practice.

Until the government's plans are finalised, it will be impossible to gauge the impact on teams of academics, whose research has been behind many recent curriculum developments. The two higher education funding councils have set aside £2.5 million to aid the transition, and the government has added £3 million, but the departments could lose much more even if they win contracts for the new-style training courses.

At the conference, Mr Clarke spoke of "a considerable shift of funds from colleges to schools" as more work was transferred. The training institutions will be expected to reimburse their partner

schools for their extra costs, placing a potentially unbearable strain on those receiving most of their money for students on PGCE courses. Income from other courses will prop up many departments, but Mr Clarke has already hinted at similar changes in primary courses, and a shortening of the BEd from four years to three. Some staff will be expected to transfer to the new training schools, but ministers wish to contain schools' costs and not create a more expensive version of the system being dismantled.

Teacher trainers are already forecasting departmental closures. Maurice Galt, the professor of education at Leicester University, told *The Times Educational Supplement*: "No one knows how

the 150 graduate trainees. Yet Dr Trevor Pateman, the director of studies for the course that pioneered school-based training 25 years ago, is among many academics who expect their departments to be able to adapt.

"There is nothing inconsistent with the Sussex approach in the proposals," he says, "although we have reservations about the 80 per cent limit in the light of the demands made by the national curriculum. We already transfer a third of our budget to schools, and



Teaching and learning: more training time may be spent in school, and colleges could suffer

it is going to be done, but if we lose 80 per cent of our funding and yet we are still expected to shoulder the expense of maintaining the library and other administration costs, we might decide it was not a viable proposition."

At Sussex University, where mentors in schools are unpaid, the school-based course is already running at a big loss. There is a deficit of £368 per head on a budget of £2,200 for every one of

are happy to see that proportion rise as long as it is going to be spent on the training it was provided for."

London University's Institute of Education expects to meet the proposed criteria with its new PGCE, transferring professional studies to schools and using teachers as full members of the training team. The scheme, developed by Professor Eric Bolton, the former

Majesty's Inspectorate, will cost the institute £300,000 in payments to schools to release teacher-tutors. A pilot project in Camden, north London, has been popular with schools and colleges. However, even this course would have to be modified under Mr Clarke's plan.

Other universities and polytechnics will have to redesign courses from scratch, and hope that the criteria will be flexible about what counts as school time. Mr Clarke has already raised the possibility of including college work supervised by teachers.

The Universities Council for the Education of Teachers, which meets on Thursday to discuss the proposals, has raised several issues with Mr Clarke. The

council contrasts the move towards increasing higher education involvement in teacher training elsewhere in Europe with the opposite thrust contemplated in Britain. The council's officers repeat the warning in last week's HMI report that schools' priority must be to teach pupils, not train students, and foresee difficulties in the selection and operation of training schools.

Like many teacher-trainers, however, they are worried about the way in which a new system would work, not the principle of switching more training into schools. The council has told Mr Clarke: "We support unreservedly the notion of equal partnership between schools and training institutions, the clarifying of their respective and complementary contributions and the appropriate resourcing of those contributions. Indeed, it is the inequality of the partnership you propose which raises many of the particular issues we identify."

There is a sense of injustice among academics in education departments, who see themselves as scapegoats for imagined shortcomings. However, if the changes are applied sensitively, there is more willingness than ministers might expect to make school-based training work.

NOTICEBOARD

Parlez-vous réalité?

A COMPREHENSIVE school in Newcastle upon Tyne is expected to be the first in Europe to bring "virtual reality" technology into the classroom. West Denton School will be the site of a £100,000 project, funded by the employment department and several commercial partners, using a desktop virtual-reality system in the teaching of A-level design, art, physics, languages and computer science. The experiments will start later this month.

The system produces images that move at such high speed that the brain is tricked into believing it is within the world created on screen. In one language project, pupils will have to find their way to a restaurant or shop, buy items and use public transport in an illusory foreign city.

More opting out

THE number of schools opting out of local authority control has almost tripled in a year, according to Choice in Education, an organisation that promotes grant-maintained status. The 104 schools voting to opt out before the start of 1991 have grown to 285, while 96 have rejected proposals to follow suit.

There are now 142 grant-maintained schools in operation. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, still has requests from 126 others on which he has to rule.

Head-first

MORE schools are appointing a headteacher at the first attempt than in previous years, researchers at Oxford Polytechnic have reported. The number of secondary schools having to readvertise posts has halved in a year, and there has been a more modest improvement in the primary sector. One in five primary headships was still not filled at the first attempt during 1991, and in inner London the rate increased to 41 per cent. Church schools had the most difficulty in filling posts.

Fewer jobs

ONE in nine of the blue-chip organisations included in the annual PA Consulting Group

survey of graduate job prospects does not intend to recruit any graduates in 1992. The survey confirms the bleak forecasts by employers and careers advisers last week.

New SEAC chief

DR Hilary Nicolle, a former diplomat and headteacher, has been appointed to the newly created post of chief executive of the School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC).

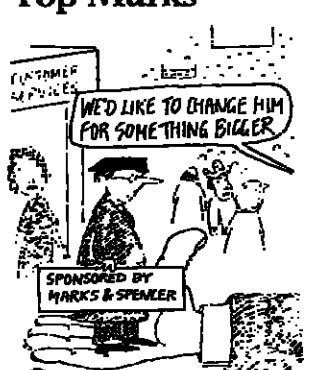
After starting her career in the diplomatic service, Dr Nicolle entered teaching, and went on to become the head of the Tiffin Girls' School, in Kingston upon Thames, southwest London. She also served on the National Curriculum Council for two years, and became the deputy director of Wandsworth education authority, in south London.

Lab alert

ARMY bomb squad officers had to neutralise a volatile cocktail of chemicals that had been tipped down a sink at Basildon Tertiary College, in Essex, last week. More than 1,000 students were sent home after a string of explosions in a chemistry laboratory.

Nobody was injured in the incident, but Susan Woodrow, the college principal, promised a full investigation.

Top Marks



MARKS & Spencer is to sponsor its first professor, at Bournemouth Polytechnic. The company already sponsors a fellowship at Manchester Polytechnic, but the chair in retail management represents a coup for Bournemouth, which expects to become a university next year.

JOHN O'LEARY



Choosing a common reform path: Britain, says Lynne Cheney, above, is a little ahead of America in testing

US learns British lessons

While Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, faces criticism of his reforms, he can take comfort in praise from one of President Bush's closest advisers.

The White House is watching Mr Clarke, if only to learn from the mistakes. Lynne Cheney, the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and married to Dick Cheney, the defence secretary, says American reforms are following Britain's. Although central government will leave the states, it will for the first time lay down certain national standards.

Mrs Cheney, appointed chairman by President Bush, has used her considerable powers to make the endowment a leader in reform and education one of its prime concerns. The endowment has a general brief to nurture the study of history, philosophy, languages, archaeology, the law and comparative religion.

On a visit to Britain last

The Americans are keenly watching Kenneth Clarke's reforms

week, she said: "We are working towards a common reform path, although you do seem to be a little ahead of us." This will lead towards a common curriculum and regular testing. Experts in every field, starting with mathematics and followed by history, will say what American children should be expected to learn, but the state, or groups of states, will be left to set their own needs.

National testing at nine, 13 and 17 will be introduced from 1993, but, again, precise requirements will be left to the state education departments. There will, however, be a national examination so that every state will know where it falls in the national perspective.

Mrs Cheney says: "I think the United States will be able to learn from the British experience in testing, which I know was at first too time-

consuming." The lesson Britain has learnt from the US is in teacher training. Mr Clarke only recently announced his intention for all graduate secondary school teachers to be taught mainly in schools. The grip of the teacher training institutions that Mrs Cheney described as a cosy monopoly leading to mediocrity was broken in the US about five years ago.

The internship system, under which graduates are trained by colleges and senior teachers, has, Mrs Cheney says, been remarkably successful in raising standards and encouraging bright young graduates to enter teaching.

"Many people with good degrees want to enter teaching but do not want to go back to college for the mind-numbing courses on offer," Mrs Cheney says. "The alternative certification has also

raised standards and improved courses in some colleges, where there are some very bright people."

One side-effect of the system in the US was to increase dramatically the number of teachers from the ethnic minorities who had been put off by the idea of traditional teacher training. Parental choice is the name of the game, Mrs Cheney says. Many states guarantee choice, even allowing groups of teachers and other qualified people to set up their own schools.

The idea of parental choice has been resisted by the teacher unions, although even they are now giving it half-hearted support.

As in Britain, the reforms were promoted initially by industry, which complained that American school-leavers were of too low a calibre, often lacking in basic skills.

The campaign was soon joined by parents "in despair" at the low standards of the public education system.

DAVID TYTLER

EDUCATION

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION



FOREST SCHOOL WARDEN

Applications are invited for this senior Headship which becomes vacant on the retirement of Mr J C Cough MA on 31st December 1992. If possible the successful applicant will take up the appointment in January 1993.

This independent and predominantly Day School has approximately 1,160 boys and girls pupils aged 7-18. The present Warden is a member of HMC, and is assisted by Heads who each lead one of the three major elements that make up Forest School: Boys Senior School, Boys and Girls Junior School (IAPS) and the Girls' School - on a single campus, which is situated in the southern edge of Epping Forest.

For further details please write to the clerk to the Governors, Forest School, College Place, Sarsdenbrook, London E17 3PY. Closing date for applications is 10th February 1992.



THE KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL Louth, Lincolnshire HEADTEACHER

Applications are invited for the post of Headteacher, which will become vacant on 1 September 1992 when the present Head, Mr JD Haden, takes up appointment as Principal of Wyntonham College.

The King Edward VI School, refounded in 1531, is a selective 14-18 mixed day and boarding Grammar School, with 530 pupils on the roll including 300 in the sixth form. The School occupies a very attractive site in the market town of Louth. The School assumed GM status in 1991 but maintains close links with Lincolnshire County Council. This is a Group 5 appointment, with a boarding supplement.

Applicants are sought from candidates with proven qualities of leadership and a commitment to maintaining the high academic standards of the School.

Further particulars and application forms are available from Professor P. Nisbett, Chairman of the Governors, King Edward VI School, Edward Street, Lincolnshire LN11 9LL.

Closing date: Friday 31st January 1992.



St. Dunstan's College HMC Day School for 790 boys (aged 7-18) Required for September 1992 Head of Mathematics Department

Further details available from the Headmaster, St. Dunstan's College, London, SE6 4TY, to whom application with full curriculum vitae, naming two academic or professional referees, should be made by 31st January.



EPSOM COLLEGE HEAD

The Council of Epsom College invites applications for the post of Head which will fall vacant following the appointment of Dr. John Cook as Director of The Inner Cities Young People's Project.

Details of the post and application forms may be obtained from:

The Secretary to the Council
Epsom College, Surrey, KT17 4JQ
Closing date for applications 30 January 1992.



BRUTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

SUNNY HILL, BRUTON SOMERSET, BA10 0NT Tel: 0749 812277

A GSA Independent Boarding and Day School (8-18, including 250 boarders)

DEPUTY HEAD (Pastoral with Special Responsibility for Boarding)

From September 1992 there will be an additional Post of Responsibility within the Senior Management for a good honours graduate with proven teaching and boarding experience, to undertake this demanding, but interesting role. The person appointed will be residential in a house on the campus.

Details are available from the Head's Secretary. Closing date for applications: 30 January 1991.

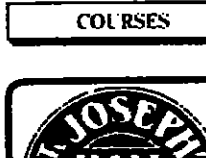


ST. DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE, CATFORD, SE6 4TY APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the post of Head of St. Dunstan's College in succession to Mr. B.D. Dance, M.A., who retires on 31st August, 1993.

St. Dunstan's College is an independent day school for boys aged 7-18 years in membership of the G.B.A. The present Headmaster is a member of the H.M.A.C.

Further details are available from the Clerk to the Governors, St. Dunstan's Educational Foundation, St. Dunstan's College, Catford, London, SE6 4TY to whom applications must be returned by 10th February, 1992.



April 1992 Easter Revision Course at the University of Oxford. Revision course in a wide range of subjects. Lectures by experienced teachers. Includes: revision techniques, study skills, exam techniques, higher education. Contact: 01865 271122 (24 hours) or write to: St. Joseph's Hall, 10, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 2JL.

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Founded 1912. 3 month course for Graduates 1 & 2. 9 month course for post 'A' level students on G.A.P. YEAR 9 month Diploma Course to include Marketing & Communications. (Leaves 14th Nov, New York). Further details from Mrs For. 4 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5. 071 373 3852 2190/5389

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Family Law
Property Law
and
Statute Law RevisionApplicants should have, or expect to gain this
year, a law degree of at least upper second class.
Experience of research work or of preparing a
dissertation would be helpful but not essential.Salary in the region of £11,700
(subject to review).Further details and application forms from
Louise Collet, The Law Commission,
Conquest House, 37/38 John Street,
Theobalds Road, London, WC1N 2BQ
Telephone 071-411 1210Closing date for applications:
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TO WORK WITH CHILDRENToday almost 2 million children world-wide are
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February 1992, please telephone LEE ACTON
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TEL: 081-343 3307 FAX 081-343 2857Stowe School
BuckinghamAppointment of
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BURSARThe Governors wish to appoint a
Finance Director/Bursar to succeed the
present Bursar who is retiring on 31st
December 1992.The person appointed should have
proven administrative ability and substantial
experience of financial management. He or
she is likely to be aged over 40.Full particulars of the appointment and
a form of application may be obtained from
the Secretary to the Governors, c/o The
Allied Schools, 42 South Bar Street,
Banbury, Oxon. OX16 9XL (Telephone
0295-256441). Closing date for applications:
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Applications, including the names of two referees, should be sent
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Closing date 24th January 1992.

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growth strategy which will ensure that it plays a key role in the
expansion of the 1990s. PNL's mission is built on the four pillars of
access, quality, internationalism and contribution to the regional
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executive team to carry forward and implement this mission.
Working closely with the Chief Executive, Leslie Wagner,
these postholders will exercise key decision-making responsibilities in
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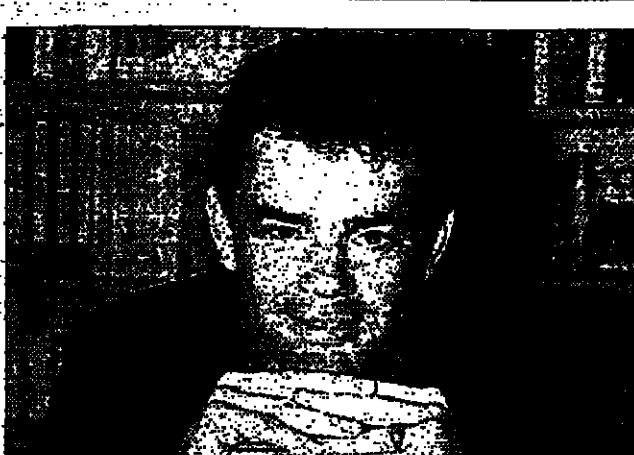
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Rugby came before a first-class degree: Will Carling

In America, athletes are lured from around the world to colleges and universities. In Britain, Damian Whitworth reports, students have more difficulty pursuing a sporting career



Quitting study: javelin champion Steve Backley

Sporting chance to study

For a British athlete with a growing reputation, time is the enemy. Modelling, guest appearances, lecturing and meeting the demands of sponsors leave little opportunity for running a simultaneous career, especially an academic one. British higher education is not flexible enough to cater for those with such commitments.

Much has been made of the welcome given to gifted athletes by Oxford and Cambridge colleges and in the past there has always appeared to be a place for good prop forwards and international oarsmen. Nowadays, however, these are rarely undergraduates — unless they get the same A-level grades as everybody else — but postgraduates or affiliated students doing a year at the university as part of a degree elsewhere.

Yet the belief that it is important to exercise the body to complement the exertions of the mind is as popular today as it was in ancient times when Juvenal wrote of the ideal of a sound mind in a sound body.

Many students develop their sporting skills while at college and have their first international success after they leave. But many who enter student life, having represented their country at junior level, fail to make full international level because they cannot cope with study and the necessary hundreds of hours of training. Students who succeed in the sports arena often have to drop out of college to remain successful.

Almost 40 years ago, the story was different. Roger Bannister, and Christopher Brasher and Christopher Chatsway, who helped Bannister run the first sub-four-minute mile in 1954, had to make no such choice between sport and work. They were hailed as Renaissance men.

The three subsequently left university with a stack of degrees. But Bannister says the training and competition in those days was more relaxed. "I never trained for more than 40 minutes a day and the maximum mileage for a week was 25, which does not compare with the work put in by the modern athlete," he recalls. Will

Carling, at the start of his England rugby union career, was forced to miss a tour of Australia because he could not postpone his examinations at Durham University. Carling completed his degree but the cost of dedicating himself to top-flight rugby was that Durham awarded him a recommended pass degree.

Jason Laslett, a West London Polytechnic undergraduate, and the captain of Teddington hockey club, decided the only way he could finish his degree and prepare for this year's Olympics was to take a year out from his course. "This summer," he says, "I would be taking my finals, but I had to take a year off. I had to choose between hockey and my course."

Laslett, aged 22, has been capped 65 times by England and Great Britain, and has had a personal coach to train him when the pressure of studying prevented his training with other members of the squad. He was lucky to be given a year out — many institutions are not keen on allowing it — and to be able to support himself while training this year.

He says: "I have been sponsored through college by a firm of insurance brokers, which is employing me for this year. The firm is very good about giving me time off."

Steve Backley, the javelin world record holder, in 1989 was a first-year, aged 20, at Loughborough in his first full season in senior athletics, when he won seven grand prix events. He also took gold medals at the Europa Cup, World Student Games and World Cup and broke the Commonwealth and British records.

He was voted athlete of the year for 1989, and was allowed a year off from his course. He has, however, decided not to return to higher education. "If everything goes to plan, I will be in athletics for the next ten years," he said last week, before leaving to spend winter in New Zealand.

Backley claims he could still be a student and compete at the top, pointing out that his great leap forward in the event came when he was still slaving over his sports studies text books. But it is extremely unlikely that he could have maintained his position as the world's no. 1 while studying.

Athletes find a warmer welcome in the United States. So active are American universities in providing free education for young people with exceptional sporting potential from countries around the world, including Britain, that the term "muscle drain" has been coined. Courses at such universities are structured so that students receive tuition to catch up on lectures missed through training or travelling to fixtures.

Academic qualifications for the courses are, however, often lower than in Britain.

Some colleges have adopted a more American system, in which students switch between faculties and collect credits towards a degree. If higher education in the 21st century moves in this direction, allowing students to work out their own time scale for academic success, Juvenal's plea for *mens sana in corpore sano* could again be answered by the appearance of a new generation of Renaissance men and women.

Tests that may still fail parents

THE new national curriculum tests for 14-year-olds announced by the government last week are meant, according to Tim Eggar, the education minister, to check standards of achievement and to inform parents about their children's progress.

Mr Eggar was presumably not suggesting that schools do not do this already but expressing a hope that the new written tests in science and mathematics, in 1992, and eventually English, technology, history, geography and modern languages, all completed by 500,000 14-year-olds at the same time every year, will give more consistency and rigour to teachers' estimates of pupils' ability, and consequently be of more use to parents.

Of course, parents will learn something from the results of these tests, but the tests do not give a final achievement grade. That comes later at 16-plus.

Tests will take place at an important time, when pupils choose courses for the following two years' GCSE programme.

All secondary schools will need to have sorted out student participation in GCSE courses well before the June date that has been set for the 14-plus tests.

In schools with a broad ability spread and wide range of courses at different levels, teachers will be involved in long discussion with pupils and parents. All the necessary information is usually available for this exercise by the end of the spring term, so it follows that schools will either run two sets of week-long examinations, one in March or April, and the new one in June, or will abandon the former and rely for guidance on continuous assessment of pupils' performances. All this suggests that the new tests will be of little practical help to parents, except in those rare cases when a pupil outperforms himself or herself.

The education department has already pointed out that such occurrences should become even rarer as the whole national curriculum settles down, and teachers have a continuous profile of pupils from the age of five.

This important point tends to get lost in the arguments and counter-arguments about the merits of end-of-year tests. The national curriculum was conceived as a continuum, to enable children to progress in a systematic way, to know what they had to do next and to realise when they had got there.

By the age of 14, pupils will be spread over the whole spectrum of attainment. The ideal time for them to be tested is when they are ready, and the original tests devised by the National Foundation for Educational Research took this into account.

A variety of methods, reflecting the fact that different subjects require different assessment techniques, was tried. However, they became over-elaborate and were replaced by the new "simple written tests" approach, which is a blunt instrument applied right across the ability range.

Teachers should show parents and governors the limitations of the new tests while trying to make the best of them. In a technological age, where creative flair, an innovative capacity and technical know-how are at a premium, simple written tests will eventually become a side issue.

CHRIS LOWE

● The author is the headmaster of Prince William School, Oundle, Northamptonshire

This way is the 'blunt instrument' approach

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Latecomers could be surplus to requirements

Reeve is making strong bid for World Cup place

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

THE two emerging personalities of England's winter tour imposed themselves so firmly during the crushing defeat of New Zealand on Saturday that the aircraft bringing reinforcements here next week may only be carrying surplus baggage.

Ian Botham and Richard Hadlee were primarily being flown out for the World Cup but their envisaged roles were immaculately and decisively played by stand-ins in the first one-day international of the tour. Now Dermot Reeve and Phil Tufnell are the men in possession and will not easily be pushed aside.

Between them, Reeve and Tufnell conceded only 37 runs from 20 overs in the middle of the New Zealand innings. Reeve additionally making three of the top five wickets. But it was not so much the figures that were impressive as the character of the players providing them.

For Reeve, each game he plays, particularly prior to Botham's arrival, is a prelude to a pressured opportunity. Ambitious, self-contained and something of a loner, Reeve is determined not to waste a day.

Tufnell's pressures are different. He began the tour with his attitude under scruti-

ny, a scrutiny that has been unduly amplified, first by a slur on the legality of his bowling action and then, on Saturday, by the uncouth attention of a yobbish element in the Auckland crowd.

Obscure, personal channels taunted Tufnell when he fielded on the third man boundary but, apart from once returning the gestures of his tormentors, he kept admirably calm. When he became the target for a volley of half-eaten fruit, Tufnell was relocated by the captain. The England manager, Bob Bennett, will discuss the crowd's behaviour with the New Zealand Board's chief executive, Graham Dowling.

"I am sure the management can handle the situation," Tufnell said. "It is not pleasant when this sort of thing happens but I am determined not to let it affect my cricket. Let no one make the mistake of believing Tufnell is suddenly choirboy material. But that he is trying to conform, under a strain few other players will encounter, is beyond dispute."

The England management has had to strike a difficult balance between the stick and the carrot with Tufnell, a balance that could easily have been disturbed by the unfriendly throwing allegation.

Tufnell worries more than he shows and was concerned enough to ask the tour manager if he had been contacted by Lord's officials for a report on the matter.

Bennett was able to reassure him and yesterday's events were further evidence of protection for a vital but vulnerable part of the side. The benefit of possessing such a bowler were again obvious on Saturday in a game one-sided enough to become an embarrassment to New Zealand.

It was summed up later by a gloomy Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain. "We didn't take the initiative in the first 15 overs of each innings. England did. It taught us a big lesson." There was, indeed, a pleasing air of purpose and efficiency about England's cricket, notwithstanding three dropped catches, and the home innings was condemned to mediocrity long before Harris and Cairns gave it a measure of respect.

Reeve had not, previously on tour, located a consistent line but, here, he was accurate from the outset. There is nothing robotic about him; his bowling is a repertoire of variations, the most exotic being an outrageous, looping slower ball.

"We are encouraging him to be expensive," Micki Stewart, the team manager, said. "It is not easy to do when you step up in class because the tendency is to go into your shell but Dermot is a cricketer of initiative."

Botham has had some antagonistic brushes with Reeve over the years and it will be an early examination of his attitude if, as now seems likely, he finds the young, uncapped pretender occupying his Test place when he arrives here. Reeve is evidently impressing both captain and manager with his vibrant, assertive approach, not to mention the intelligence that surfaced in his dismissal of Andrew Jones.

"I could sense him getting frustrated," said Reeve, "and Graeme Hick, from cover, told me he was standing out of his crease. I asked our wicketkeeper to stand up, putting him under pressure, and then told the batsman to work. The play worked, a triumph for thinking cricket."

If England craved one further treat to complete their day it was a big score from Robin Smith and even this was not denied them. After Gooch and Hick had mocked the New Zealand total with an opening stand of 64 from ten overs, Smith took control. His 61 from 71 balls included 50 in boundaries and was exactly the injection of confidence he needed.

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West Indies find form

Appealing moment: Sir Richard Hadlee concludes a remarkable weekend of cricket in Auckland yesterday by playing in a charity match. It was his first game since undergoing heart surgery last June

Brisbane: West Indies kept alive their hopes of reaching the World Series Cup final with victories over India and Australia in successive days. Australia, with nine points from seven games, are already assured of a place in the final, and West Indies are now favourites to join them.

With winds from Cyclone Best whipping up the Gabba grandstand flags, Australia were dismissed for 203 by a relentless pace quartet led by Patrick Patterson as West Indies won yesterday's match by 12 runs. West Indies also matched Australia's brilliance in the field, running out three batsmen, including the vital wickets of David Boon and Allan Border. "I didn't think we had enough runs but our guys bowled well," the West Indies captain, Richie Richardson, said.

Put in to bat, West Indies reached 168 for two with Brian Lara hitting five fours and a six in his 69, and Richardson continuing his

Tedstone makes her mark

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

ENGLAND struck with three wickets in the last half-hour to put themselves in a strong position after the second day of the first women's Test match against New Zealand at Cornwall Park yesterday.

At the close of play, the home team was 81 for three, after England had declared at 356 for nine, but the outstanding feature of the touring side's innings was a world record ninth-wicket partnership of 99 by Janet Tedstone and Susie Kitson.

Tedstone finished with an unbeaten 55 after hitting four boundaries off 105 balls, and was quickly involved in the action again when she captured the wicket of the New Zealand captain, Debbie Hockley, when Kitson hooked up a sharp chance in the gully.

In the sweltering heat on Saturday, Jan Britton scored 68 to become the second-highest scorer of Test runs, behind Rachael Flint, and featured in a record English third-wicket partnership against New Zealand when she put on 129 with Carole Hodges, who was out before her after making 57.

Scorecard: England 356 dec (100 overs); New Zealand 81-3 (20 overs). England: 1-17, 2-17, 3-17, 4-17, 5-17, 6-17, 7-17, 8-17, 9-17, 10-17. New Zealand: 1-17, 2-17, 3-17, 4-17, 5-17, 6-17, 7-17, 8-17, 9-17, 10-17.

BOBSLEIGHING

Four-man team in chase for medals

FROM SIMON BARNES IN IGLS

THE leading British four-man team won the Stella Artois British Open here on Saturday, exactly as it should have done. As it did so, it showed that it is one of the hottest teams in the world right now: it set a course record of 51.89sec on its first run. The previous record was 51.91sec. 0.02sec is a long time in bobsleighing.

"On this form, we should certainly win a medal at the Winter Olympics," the driver, Mark Toot, said. "The gold will go to the team that puts it together at Albertville. And we are very much in contention."

The weekend saw an enormous rise in the bullishness of the British camp. The team runs an East German bobsleigh, and has a technical coach from East Germany, Horst Homlein, the former national coach and a gold medal winner in the huge.

The entire British squad now moves on to Altenberg, a "centre of excellence" that was built by the great East German sports machine.

There, the Brits will work in wind tunnels and seek to perfect their start on an indoor rink especially built for the purpose.

It is equipped with video, electronic timing apparatus and every other aid that science can supply.

The only disappointment of the weekend was the poor performance of Toot and his brakeman, Lenny Paul, in the two-man competition. The No. 1 team was eclipsed by the understudies, Sean Olsson and Eric Sekowal.

Assuming this is an aberration, Toot and Paul are in with a chance of a medal in the two-man event. But the main British hopes are placed on the four.

"There is a great spirit in the team - better than I have ever known before," Paul said.

Paul is a sprinter, with very real hopes of representing Great Britain in the Summer Olympics well. The atmosphere at the weekend was unrelentingly purposeful, and imprudently professional. "No one in the world has better equipment than us," Toot said.

"I know that I have the best brakeman in the business. The four was running really well all through Saturday. Everything about our preparation was right."

But there was one other disappointment. When the final Olympic selection was made, for the non-travelling reserves and the subsidiary teams, as everyone had expected, there was no room at all for the most junior driver.

A thousand headlines have been killed by this decision, for he has a name that nobody could either forget or believe. Bad luck, Captain Snowball.

FOR THE RECORD

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| (No of games) | Total | Widely avg'd | % Goals widely |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Div 1 (11) | 274,076 | 24,916 | +32 18% |
| Div 2 (12) | 107,949 | 8,587 | +154 21% |
| Div 3 (12) | 80,650 | 5,071 | +94 4 17% |
| Div 4 (11) | 36,643 | 3,613 | +12 4% |

Highest of weekend: 44,619 (Manchester Utd v Everton). Lowest of weekend: 2,547 (Doncaster v Halifax).

* Attendances include midweek games.

